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Records of Fort St George

FRENCH CORRESPONDENCE

[PUBLIC SUNDRIES No 8 (a)]

1750

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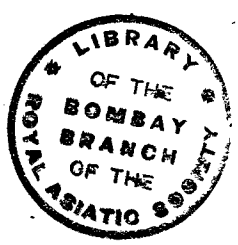

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PREFATORY NOTE.

The following pages contain the correspondence which passed in 1750 between the French Council at Pondicherry and the English Council at Fort St. David, then the head-quarters of the English on the coast. The original volume, which is numbered 8 (*a*) in the Public Sundries and is in a fair state of preservation, contains transcripts of the French letters together with translations. The translations only have been printed here.

H. DODWELL,
Curator, Madras Record Office.

18th September 1914.

RECORDS OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

FRENCH CORRESPONDENCE

OF

1750

[PUBLIC SUNDRIES NO. 8 (A)].

No. 1.

Pondicherry the 10th. March 1750.

Sir

I am just now advis'd that Your People have taken Possession of Tavendaparum, & its Dependencies, and that they have likewise carried before You, One Chandra Chekara a Braming [*sic*], whom I had plac'd there to collect the Rents: Abdoul Jaleel some Days before also carried away this same Braminy: but You oblig'd him to send him back and Your Dubash Mouddere Quichenapoulé lent him his Palankeen to carry him back to the Place from whence Abdul Jaleel had taken him. Upon which our Dubash Rangapoulé wrote your Dubash a Letter of Thanks. The Conduct observ'd at present is entirely opposite to what I have the honour now to represent to You. I do not any Ways pretend to dispute the Right you may have to act in the manner You do. I only complain that these Villages being mortgaged to the Company for 12,000 Rupees and the Kings Flag fixed there, you have not judged proper to advise me of your Intentions before your People remov'd this Flag. You could not be ignorant of these Villages being Mortgaged to the Company, and it is above 4 Months since our Flag was set up there, and our Dubash Rangapoulé in the abovementioned Ltre of Thanks to your Dubash, gave him an Accot. of the Lands that were mortgaged, which I now repeat. The Lands of Tevenapatam, those of Terwaddy Panerouttty, of Vengata Pette, of Bouanaguiry, of Ville Parou, of Tirtanaguiry, of Porto Novo, of Covelon, & Ponemelly. Your Merchants have begg'd of Rangapoulé that they may rent many of the Villages of Tevenapatam.

Being thus acquainted wth these Circumstances the Respect due from Us to the Flags of our Seperate Monarchs should have induced You to have advis'd me of the Priviledges You may have, as I declare to you beforehand if the Great Mogol in Person should tell me to remove your Flag from any Part whatever in his Dominions I should give him an Answer, which might make him sensible of the Respect We reciprocally owe to each other. I could wish You had been Willing to think in like manner, and not affect a kind of Contempt for a Flag to which the same Respect is due from You, as from Us to yours. One Word of Advice would have sufficed; but you have not judged that proper and oblige me thereby to protest against You for the Injury offer'd our Flag, and for the loss that may accrue to our Company from taking off the Mortgage. I shall as soon as possible furnish you with the Accots: of what has been receiv'd to this time, the Remains

will be on Your Account. I beg of You to think that I should be very cautious of shewing to this Rabble the Moors, so glaring a Contempt to Your Flag as you have shewn for Ours: it can never be approv'd by your Superiors, who will see, as I do, the Mischevious Consequences that may attend the Example You have this Day set me.

I hope you will be pleas'd to return the Braminy, If you do not look upon him as Your Prisoner of War. I must not forget to tell You that in the Number of the Villages which compose the Extent of Tevenapatam, There are 5 named Nellatour Mandagul Pattou, Vana Medeve, Viraperoumal Nellour, Annavaly, which have been given as a Present to our Dubash, under the Protection of the Company, and where the Flag has been fixed for some time Past. I have the Honour to be with Respect Sir Your most Humble Servt—DUPLEIX.

No. 2.

To Mr: DUPLEIX Govr:
& THE GENTLEMEN OF THE SUPERIOR
COUNCIL OF PONDICHERRY.

Gentlemen

Our Governor has lay'd before Us a Ltre he has receiv'd from Mr Dupleix and has taken a good deal of Pains to search into the Complaint. We believe by the enclos'd Declarations made by your People plac'd there to collect the Rents that 'twill appear a groundless one. Our Govrs: sending back the Braminy that was taken by Abdul Jaleel is a strong Proof of his Desire to avoid, giving You any Offence. We were so far from looking on yr: Braming as a Prisoner, that he never has been under the least Restraint, and only desired to come in and see the Grant we have for Trevendaparum & all its Dependencies and he was told that he was at Liberty to go where he thought proper. By this we have the Honour to advise You that We have hoisted our Colours at Trevendaparum and that that and all its Villages belong to the English Company You can not think yourselves any ways neglected by not having earlier notice of it, since You never thought it worth your while, to give Us the least Intimation of your Hoisting Flags close to our Bounds.

You may assure yourselves that we shall always shew the same Respect to your Colours that we expect from all other Nations (at Peace with Us) to Ours.

We can have nothing to do with your Mortgage on those Villages now become Ours & believe you had better apply to the Person you lent the Money to for Payment. We have the honour to be Gentlemen Your most Obedt. hmble Servts.

Fort St. David
5th. March 1749/50

Febry the 28th. 1749/50 O: S:

Translate.

We the Principal Inhabitants of Tervendaporam Country do declare that when the English took Possession of that Country the 27th Febry 1749/50 the French had no Colours hoisted in any one of the Villages belonging to the said Country.

Witness hereunto	Vencatapetty Redy.	Sign'd ℔
	Janardanah Redy.	Samba Sevah Redy.
Milah Comarapah.	Sevenagah Redy.	Termalayah Pillah.
Neltamby Chetty.	Paley Redy.	Wishnadah Redy.

Translate

Febry the 28th
1749/50 O : S :

I Ambarcana Chender Shaker Rayaloo the Havildar of Tervendaporam Country do Declare that when I was appointed Havildar and went to do my Duty in the said Country, there were no French Colours hoisted either in the Town of Tervendaporam or in any one of the Villages belonging to it.

On the 25th of Febry 1749/50 I receiv'd an Order from Pondicherry to hoist the French Colours but before I did so the English came and took Possession of the said Country and hoisted their Colours.

Witness hereunto

Drawn & Sign'd ℔
Ambaracana Chender Shaker Rayaloo.

Neltamby Chitty
Milah Comarapah.

Translate

Febry the 28h 1749/50 O : S :

We the underwritten Principal & other Inhabitants of Tervendaporam Country do Declare that the French Colours were never hoisted in the five Villages under the said Country, namely Wanamadevy, Annavelly, Mandagapet Nellatour, and Vereperma Nelloor of which Gopalaya was an Overseer nor did We ever see them flying in the said Villages.

Witness hereunto

Sign'd ℔

Milah Comarapah.
Neltamby Chitty.

Sambasheva Redy—Termalaya Pilla—Wishnadah Redy—Vencatapetty Redy—Janardanah Redy—Sevenaga Redy—Pauley Redy—Permah Ninar—Shamey Naick—Arnagary—Wedy Redy.

Translate

Febry the 28th 1749/50

I Gopalaya Braminy do Declare that I was appointed to take care of the underwritten 5 Villages belonging to Tervendaporam and I came to Madevey one of the said Villages for that purpose on the 29th of December 1749 and there were no white Colours hoisted in them after my coming nor did I find any when I came nor have I receiv'd any Orders concerning hoisting the said Colours.

Witness hereunto

Sign'd ℔
Gopalaya

Milah Comarapah.
Neltamby Chitty.

The Names of the 5 Villages are as follows:—Wanava Deve Anna Velly Mandagapet Neliatoor, Veraperma Nelloor.

No. 3.

Pondy : 14th March 1750.

To Mr Floyer Govr for
the Honble Compy of England
and to the Gentlemen of the
Superiour Council at
Fort St. David.

Sir & Sirs

In the Differences which the Nations of Europe may have with the People of Asia It has always been customary for other Nations never to interfere in such Differences or furnish any kind of Succour to the Ennemy [*sic*] of such European

Nation who may be engag'd in a War with the said Asiatic Government. This Policy which is strong in itself has ever been strictly observed and the Nation of Europe engaged in such War should rather hope for Succour from the other European Powers than be apprehensive of their furnishing the Enñemy with any Assistance, a thing never practised 'till now and which may properly be said to be contrary to the Rules of Good Policy since the Consequence of it must be the prolonging the War which must equally ruin the Commerce of each. These Considerations which are very true and w^ch^ ought always to be present with Us have prevented our giving the least Attention to the strong Solicitations which were made to Us from the King of Tanjour when You thought proper to make War with him. The Treaties we have with that Prince by which we are oblig'd to assist him When attack'd or by whomsoever have no ways induced Us to act contrary to that good Policy. The Answer of Our Gov^r^: has always been that having a Suspension of Arms with the English it was impossible for him to break it, or offer the least Violence to it. This Resolution from which we have never departed has been the means of your soon finishing that War & of Peace being restored to that Country. This Conduct entirely agreable to the intention and meaning of our Seperate Monarchs, and Companies has had no Weight with You. Our Enemies with whom we are actually in War have found with You not only Protection but the most ready Assistance of all kinds Men, Cannon, Ammunition of all Sorts have been sent to Trichenopoly. Letters after Letters have been wrote, to bring Nazer Jing with his Troops into this Province, and we are well assured that you are now supplying them with every thing in your Power such as Men Ammunition &ca. This Province is ruin'd by a large Body of Morattas who have been brought into it, who a sworn Enemy to all the World ravage and ruin equally your Places as others, We beg of You Gentlemen seriously to reflect on this Subject. We declare to You that We are a principal Party concern'd in this War and not as Auxiliaries so that the Succours You may furnish to our Enemies will be entirely contrary to the Treaties the Intention of our Superiors and the Rules of good Policy, that the Continuance of this War will be entirely owing to You as Well as the Ravages the necessary Consequence of it.

We therefore Protest in the best manner We are able against whatever you may act contrary to the Treaties of Peace Alliance &ca subsisting between our Seperate Princes and in particular against the Assistance You may give our Enemies, assuring You on our Part that on the like Occasions We shall Act as we always have done agreable to the said Treaties and good Policy. We have the honour to be most perfectly Sir & Sirs Your most Obedient Serv^ts^. Dupleix.—De St. Paul.—Barthelemy.—Le Maire.—Friell.—Guillard.

No. 4.

To M^R^ Dupleix Gov^R^:
FOR THE HOÑBLE COMPY OF FRANCE
AND TO THE GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL OF
PONDICHERRY.

Gentlemen

We are now to acknowledge the Receipt of Your favour of the 14^th^ Instant N: S: and shall use our utmost Endeavours to keep up to the good Intentions of our seperate Princes in maintaining the Peace concluded between them, but at the same time we assure you, that we shall never let our Politicks be so much refin'd as to let them in the least deviate from the Strictest Rules of Equity. The Laws of Humanity oblige Us to give Protection to any People at Peace with us, except Robbers or Murderers for they are Enemies to Mankind and ought not to be protected, You seem to be of Opinion that Nazir Jing's coming to this Country will prolong the War, we differ with you in that Point and are well assured that if Synda Saib had succeeded in all his designs that the Country would have been in perpetual Troubles, which would have been a great Disadvantage to Us and may

be in the End to You The Succours We sent for the Defence of Nazir Jing and Trechinopoly are no ways contrary to the Treaties of Peace, but rather a Duty incumbent on Us to hasten a Peace in the Country which will be advantageous to Your Nation as well as Ours; as we are sensible that a large Army in these Parts is destructive to Your Bounds as well as Ours we are now sending to Nazir Jing some Gentlemen on an Embassy they will if you approve of it propose a Peace between you and him and do their best Offices to obtain it. We have the honour to be Gentlemen Your most Obed^{t}. hum^{e}. Serv^{ts}:

Fort S^{t}. David
10th March 1749/50

No. 5.

Pond^{y}: the 19th. of March 1750.

To M^{R} Floyer Governor
for the Hoñble Company of
England and to the Gentlemen
of Council.

Gentlemen

We have rec'd the Letter you did us the honour to write Us the 5th Inst: O: S: in Answer to one from our Governour of the 10th same Month. The Declarations which You have sent Us to what Purpose are they but to prove that those who gave them are a Sett of Mercenary Wretches & are of a piece wth all the other Dealings of the Malabar People? You keep them under your Power you have hoisted your Flag in their Territories, can they say any thing but what you would have them say? These false Declarations in short are presented to us to prove that the Complaint made by our Gov^{r}: is without Reason. It is well known that Our Flag has been fix'd at Trivendaparum and in the Villages dependent on it, as well as in the 5 Villages given to our Dubash under our Protection. The Care M^{r} Floyer took to send back the Braminy whom Abdul Jaleel seized is a Proof which it is impossible for you to contradict. The Flag was not only hoisted but was there at the time your People fixed yours to the Northward of the Tree where Ours was. When the Morattas are gone we will if you desire it shew You the Trees and Places where these small Colours were fixed and can convince you of these Lyes when you please. Those whose Certificates you have sent us will produce to You the Accounts & Expences made by the Braminys [*sic*] and Writers. As for the Rest to what end can so many Proofs serve in an Affair so publickly known and which Gov^{r}: Floyer himself well knew. We shall not enter into a further Explanation of this Matter. The Publick and you yourselves Gentlemen are as well acquainted with it as we are.

The Braminy who was charged with collecting the Revenues of these Villages is still more culpable towards us, as he does not scruple to say that he is not at Liberty to come here, 'though according to your Letter he is free to go where he pleases. He has Accounts with Us, and We ought in the like Cases to serve each other; We therefore desire Gentñ that You will send him by Sea under Guard of some of your People, that he may make up those Acc^{ts} with Us. He shall then be return'd to you again if you desire it or shall be at Liberty to go where he pleases. We certainly should have acted very impolitickly, if we had hoisted our Flag in any Place where you had the least Pretentions, but when Villenoor and its Dependencies and Bahour & its Dependencies like wise, were given to Us, we had not the least Thought of our being oblig'd to give you an Account of our Proceedings. the Extent of your Dominions in this Country, is equal to that of Ours and nothing more, if our Gov^{r}: had thought himself oblig'd to have advised Gov^{r}: Floyer before his fixing his Flag at Trivendaparum it would have been that ours was hoisted there and that the Grounds were morgaged [*sic*] to us as far as 12,000 Rupees and in short it has been removed very unadvisedly. These Circumstances justly consider'd will show the Right to be on our Side and

give Us a Right to protest against this Proceeding and for the Losses our Company may suffer in the Risque they run of loosing the Surplus of the Sum of 12,000 Rup^{s}: for which these Villages have been mortgaged. The King of Prussia in taking Possession of Silesa was oblig'd by the subsequent Treaties to discharge the Mortgage, that Province was charg'd with. We hope Gentlemen our Right will be look'd upon in Europe in the same light. We hope also You will be pleased to answer our last. We have the honour to be truly Gent:

No. 6.

To M^{R} Dupleix Gov^{R}: for
the Honble Company of France
and the Gentlemen of the Superior
Council of Pondicherry.

Gentlemen

We had the honour of Your Letter dated the 19th Ins^{t}: N: S: and have great Reason to take ill your Suspicion of our having used any force to extort the Declarations made by the Braminy and others. Your Complaint of our taking down your Colours is without Foundation for several of Us the undersign'd were present when we hoisted ours at Trevindaparum, and there was not then those of any other Nation flying nor had we ever heard that Yours were hoisted there.

We shall send you the Braminy to make up his Accounts with you & (when he has done) desire he may have Liberty to return if it is his Choice.

You say that Gov^{r}: Floyer's sending back the Braminy (that Abdel Jaleel had taken) is a proof that he knew of your Colours being at Trevindaparum; we cannot think it one, nor shall we enter into any Debate with You, but shall continue to do all the friendly Offices in our power to your Nation and could heartily wish the same way of thinking had been reciprocal w^{ch} we were in great hopes of at the Conclusion of the Peace.

Our Governour Assures you that he never heard of your Colours being at Trevindaparum as to that Place being mortgaged to you his Dubash told him that he had it in a Letter from yours but we think it wou'd be look'd upon as an extraordinary way of acting was a Gov^{r}: to take publick Notice of what is wrote from one Gentleman's Servant to another; 'tis uncommon for any Body to lend their Money on a bad Title unless with a view of extravagant Interest. We have the honour to be Gentlemen Your most hum^{e} & obed^{t} Serv^{ts}: C.F.—E.C.—S.L.—A.W.—F.W.—T.C.

Fort St David
12th March 1750.

No. 7.

Sir

Our Nation and our General, have not engaged in the War that you have made on the King of Tanjour, whatever Solicitations and Promisses that Court may have made to our General. No one thing could possibly oblige him, to deviate from the Neutrality, he was oblig'd to observe in Consequence of the Preliminaries Sign'd & Confirm'd by the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle. That Example conformable to the Intentions and Orders of our Sovereigns has not been able to engage your Commanders to act the same part in the present War with the Family of Anaverdi Cawn, and I see without the least room to doubt that your Nation will in every particular, succour and assist our Enemy which is declaring yourselves Enemies to ours & acting in opposition to the essential Part of the last Treatys, as to furnish Troops and Ammunition, to our declar'd Enemy therefore I summon You in the Name of the King my Master to withdraw, without which I do declare unto you, in the above Name, that the first Shot that shall be fired upon Us by your People, shall be taken by Us as a Declaration of War, Protesting from hence forth against

the fatal Consequences attending your Proceedings. Declaring moreover unto you that in the present War against the Family of Anaverdy Cawn, we are principal Parties; and that your Presence shall not hinder us from Acting.

No. 8.

Sir

I am honour'd with your Letter from Camp dated the 3d day of April 1750 to which I can only reply at present that I have Communicated the Contents of it, to the Ambassadors to the Nabob Nazir Jing from the honourable the English East India Company who as well as myself are of Opinion I should transmit it to to the Governour and Council of Fort St David under whose Orders I here act, and as soon as I receive their Orders on the Subject Matter of your Letter, I will with the utmost Expedition transmit you their further Opinion and full Answer to your Letter but in the interim I must in Obedience to their Commands execute the Trust they have reposed in me. I have the honour to be with the greatest Respect Sir Your most Obedt : humo : Servt : J. Cope.

* Nellinoor Camp.
March 23d 1749/50 O : S :

No. 9.

To Ms Dupleix Governour
for the hoñble Company of
France and the Gentlemen of
the Superiour Council of Pondicherry.

Gentlemen

The Officer Commanding our Troops at present with Nazir Jung having transmitted Us Copy of a Letter sent him by the Commander of Yr. Detachment in Chunda Saib's Army signifying to him he should deem the first Shot fired by our People as a Declaration of War, We were greatly astonish'd to find that your said Officer should after such a Declaration be guilty of so manifest a Breach in the Treaties subsisting between our respective Sovereigns, by firing upon the Colours of our King the 24th Ultimo O : S : and thereby wounding some of our Men which we cannot esteem but as the highest Insult offer'd to our Monarch and the English Nation in general. Therefore now send you enclos'd our Protest for this so unwarrantable a Proceeding to which we beg your immediate Answer. We have the honour to be Gentlemen Your most Obedt : humo : Servts :

Fort St David
1st April 1750.

We Charles Floyer Esqr. President and Governor of Fort St. David, and the subscribing Members of the Council thereof Protest in the Name of His Britannick Majesty and the Hoñble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, against you Monsr : Dupleix Governour, & the Gentlemen of the Superiour Council of Pondicherry, for the French Nation, for an Insult offere'd to the English Nation by the Commander of the French Detachment in Chunda Saib's Camp in firing upon the English Colours the 24th Mar : 1749/50 O : S : by which some of our Men were Wounded as they were marching up in Conjunction with Nazir Jing's Troops to the Attack of Chunda Saib's Army for which Indignity we demand immediate Satisfaction, otherwise we shall be oblig'd to apply to the Commander in Chief of His Britannick Majesty's Squadron in the East Indies to use his Endeavours to obtain it. That as the aforesaid Commander of the Detachment signified by Letter to Captn. Cope, dated the 3d of April 1750 N.S. (Copy of which has been transmitted to Us) That the first Shot fir'd by our Detachment should be deem'd by him as a Declaration of War, We cannot help being greatly surpriz'd that after such a Declaration he should be the Agressor by firing on our People; which they return'd as requir'd by the Law of

Nature, as We should be greatly blameable to our King and Country did we not immediately Demand satisfaction for this Insult, offer'd to our Nation by another, Whom the most Sacred Bonds of Peace oblige Us to live in Amity with. Therefore We Charles Floyer Esq^{r}. President and Governour of Fort S^{t}. David and the Council thereof, do apply immediately in Behalf of his Britannick Majesty and The Hoñble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies to You Mons^{r}. Dupleix Governour and the rest of the Gentlemen of the Superiour Council of Pondicherry for and hope shortly to receive from You such a Reparation as shall be deemed Satisfactory. Dated, in Fort S^{t}. David this 1st day of April 1750. CHARLES FLOYER—EDWARD CROKE—STRINGER LAWRENCE—ALEXANDER WYNCH—FOSS WESTCOTT—THOMAS COOKE.

No. 10.

Pondicherry 15th April N : S : 1750.

M^{R} FLOYER GOV^{R}.
AND THE GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL
OF FORT ST DAVID.

Gentlemen

To Answer the Letter which you have done Us the Honour of Writing to Us dated the first old Stile Attended with a Protest intimating that our People were the first Agressors by Firing on Yours The fourth of this Month, We send you two Papers which we would have sent You sooner were we not sufficiently convinced of the little Regard you Pay to all our Protestatations [*sic*] You will see by those Pieces how well grounded Yours are and the just Reasons we have of Complaint to your Superiours. You did not think of sending Us your Protest until You were inform'd of the Complaint lodged against yours by the Commanding Officer of our Troops and to prevent What Accident may Result from the essential Mistake that Officer is fallen into as well as others of your People against the King and the Nation We are sensible you are endeavouring to find a plausible Pretence for his Fault but are dubious of your Success. The Proofs we have are too Conspicuous and seen and heard by both Armys.

A true translate from the Original by me EDM^{D}: PASCAL.

MESS^{RS}. LAWRENCE
& WESTCOTT.

Gentlemen

We have Receiv'd the Honour of your Letter bearing date the 3^{d} April O : S : You will find wth this our Answer to the Gentlemen of the Council of Fort S^{t} David which we desire you to forward to them we have the honour to be Gentlemen your most humble & most Obed^{t} Serv^{ts}:

A true translate from the Original by me EDMUND PASCAL.

We Undersign'd Commander and Officers of the French Army encamp'd at Matour, do Declare, Certifye and Attest that on Saturday the fourth we did not fire on the Enemy untill we had Receiv'd several Shott from them, their Guns being then actually serv'd by the English, and finding several six pound Shott Mark'd in the same manner as those the English fir'd on Pondicherry during the Siege and moreover Declare that the Day after the Cannonading having thought proper to Retreat towards Pondicherry we then saw very distinctly some English persuing Us and more particularly an Officer in Red, with a Point d'Espagne Hat, on whom one of Us Named Bugrez fir'd two Shot. other Officers were also seen drawing the Moors up in order of Battle for to Charge Us, and that they follow'd Us a long time on the Company's Ground in truth of which we have Sign'd the following Certificate done in Camp at Barompett the 6th: April 1750.

A true Translate of the Original done by me. EDMUND PASCAL.

Declaration of Aluro De Sylva Portuguese Mestice taken in Presence of M^{r}. St Paul second of this Place and the Sieurs Bertrand & Lebou Translators to the Company for the Portugal Language.

The above Aluro De Sylva did Declare that he has seen Nine french Prisoners wounded lying in a Tent in the English Camp and detain'd by them the said Aluro De Sylva having continued with them three days. Which Prisoners have charg'd him to acquaint the Governour they were ill treated, and more particularly so with Respect to their Provissions and moreover added that the day on which the French Retreated to Pondicherry he saw near one Hundred English in persuit of them who afterwards withdrew into the Army of Nazir Jung the above Declaration he has confirm'd by Oath in Presence of the Undersigned and after being explain'd to him in his own Language has hereunto put his Name in Pondicherry the 11th of April 1750.

A true translate from the Original by me EDMUND PASCAL

No. 11.

To Mr. Dupleix Govr.
FOR THE HOÑBLE COMPANY OF FRANCE
AND THE GENTLEMEN OF THE SUPERIOR
COUNCIL OF PONDICHERRY.

Gentlemen

We have had the honour of your Lẽre of the 15th April, N.S. containing two Papers, which we were not much surpriz'd You should imagine would be but little regarded by us as the first a Declaration of your Officers does not in the least evince, That the Officer commanding our Troops in Nazir Jing's Camp was guilty of what you are pleas'd to lay to his Charge of being the Agressor, or that the Commander of your Detachment in Chunda Saib's Army, did not fire first upon the Colours of our Sovereign and thereby violate the most Solemn Treaties subsisting between our seperate Princes which the Declaration of our Officers now enclosed is a Proof of, Wherefore we must still declare our Protest against you Gentlemen for that Action, to be in full force. To have any ways regarded the Declaration of Aluro De Sylva, we are certain Gentlemen Yourselves when you read the Copy of the Letter from your own People which we now send You, must have entertain'd but a mean Opinion of us as it evidently makes appear how greatly that infamous Wretch has perjur'd himself and we hope it will particularly convince you that our utmost Care has not been wanting to preserve those unfortunate Men (Who our Surgeon has now the Charge of in Camp) from the fate that must certainly have attended them had they continued in the Hands of their Captors, which is an Act of Humanity we make no doubt would have been Shewn in like manner by you had any of our People been so unhappy as to have fallen into the Hands of Chunda Saib's Army.

We are somewhat surpriz'd that you should pretend to be sensible that we are endeavouring to find out an excuse for the Behavior [*sic*] of our Commanding Officer when we never entertain'd Thoughts of any such thing being Confident he has done nothing but will meet with the Approbation of his and our Superiours notwithstanding the Proofs you mention, to have; being convinc'd they cannot be very substantial.

You are greatly mistaken in your Assertion, That we did not think of sending you our Protest till we were inform'd of the Complaint lodg'd by your Officer against Ours; what occasion'd our dilatoriness in forwarding it, was our being unwilling to deliver a Matter of that Nature without its being well consider'd, and had you done the like by the several you have lately thought proper to send us, we cannot imagine you would have dealt so lightly with Affairs of the highest Importance by Protesting against Us when there was not the least foundation for it; which was the Reason of our being guilty of the Complaint you make, of our having paid very little Regard to them. We have the honour to be Gentlemen Your most Obedt. humle Servts CHARLES FLOYER—EDWARD CROKE—STRINGER LAWRENCE—ALEXANDER WYNCH—FOSS WESTCOTT—THOMAS COOKE.

Fort St David
11th April 1750.

We the Commander and Officers of the English Troops now encamp'd at Valdoor, being Convened at the Request of the Ambassadors sent on behalf of the Honourable the English East India Company to his Excellency Nazir Jung, in order to lay before Us a short Declaration sign'd by the french Officers on the 6th of April 1750 O:S: Do acknowledge to have seen the same, and think ourselves indispensibly obliged to answer thereto, not only for our own Justification, but the satisfaction of the Governor and Council of Fort St David, whom we now address to obtain Us ample Satisfaction for the Insult and flagrant Offence offer'd to the British Colours, then flying under our Protection, since it was the prudent Choice of the French Army to retreat to their Garrison, before we could properly use the sufficient Means which we had in our Power for obtaining of it ourselves.

We now certify and declare that on the 24th March 1750 O: S: the English Troops were drawn up on the left of Nazir Jing's Army. That the Canonading had been begun by both Armies a long time before we had formed either our Men or Artillery for Action, or got upon the Ground designed for Us; we likewise firmly assert, there was not one Gun belonging to or under the Charge or Management of the English fir'd by our People against the Enemy Synda Saib, Mezerpher jing, or the French, until such time as seven or eight of their Cannon Shot dropped close to our Soldiers and by them could discover that most of the Enemies Fire was pointed at us and our Artillery, and that two of our Men were wounded by them.

We should be greatly surpriz'd at the french Officers asserting they were persued by the English, and that we conducted and led Nazir Jing's Army in the Persuit of that of Synda Saib and the French the day of their Retreat as likewise at their now persisting in this gros [*sic*] Error so far, as to give it under their Hands; had we not a lively Idea of the Confusion and Hurry of that Retreat by the many unhappy Circumstances attending it, each single one proving it to a full Demonstration, therefore we can assign this Deceptio Visus to nothing else since we can and do most Solemnly declare that instead of persuing them or joining Nazir Jing's Troops or Allies in it, we began to encamp the Instant we heard of the French retreating towards their Garrison notwithstanding the most pressing Solicitations of Nazir Jing and Anoverda Cawn to assist and Join in the persuit, nor did we march' till the afternoon of the day of their Retreat. That their was not an Officer or Man absent from their Camp, and in Case we were inclin'd to have persued the French it would have been inconsistent with all Military Discipline as we were upon the left of the Army, and had not Advice of the Retreat, until the French had had a long time marched of their Ground and at our Distance it would have been morrally [*sic*] impossible for any regular Infantry to have come up with them, or at least not till the French had got within their lawful Bounds, against entering wch. we were upon our thorough Guard, it being strictly contrary to our Orders; we likewise declare there was not one Person belonging to or under the Command of the English who wore a Point D'Espagne Hat that day of Canonading, or the French Retreat, and one of Us whose name is underneath Subscribed, Edward Pero Officer of the Artillery declares, there were only two Guns belonging to the English Train or under their Charge fired the day of Canonading that their Caliver is of the Size of an eight Pounder and upward and that all the Shot fired from them (which were very few) were to the best of his Knowledge and Belief hammer'd Shot; and were received out of the Stores of Nazir Jing but a few Days before. We also aver that our Orders were not to begin the fire, which we did not, nor should we have return'd it at such a Distance but we found that we were not likely that day to approach nearer, as Nazir Jing seem'd by his Disposition not design'd to make the close Attack 'till next Morning; besides the French Nation by many Experiments must be well convinc'd of such a Distance not being the Choice of the English.

We likewise have seen the Attestation of Aluro de Sylva, but as it, and the Person are equally infamous and that he was but a few days before refus'd Service

by Us (being a Vagabond) & as every one particular herein Asserted can be proved by Creditable and incontestable Evidence, & that his can be proved Villianous [*sic*] even by the french Men now under our Doctors Care we must be excused from taking further notice of all such Insignificant procured Evidence.

In Witness hereof We have hereunto set our hands this Eleventh day of April 1750. O.S. JAMES COPE—J DALTON—JAMES KILPATRICK – PHILIP BULKLEY—BENJ: PIGOU—JN°: GRANT—JOHN INNES—EDW^D. PERO.

We the undersigned do attest that every Thing contained in the within Declaration, concerning the Retreat of Chunda Saib and the French is true Witness our Hands at Valdoor Camp, April 11th 1750. GEORGE GARDNER—ROB^T: TALBOT.

Translate of the Letter from the wounded French Men in Nazir Jing's Camp to the Gentñ of the Superior Council of Pondicherry.

TO THE GENTLEMEN OF THE SUPERIOR
COUNCIL OF PONDICHERRY.

Gentlemen

This Morning the English Officers did Us the Honour to communicate to Us the Declaration of one Aluro de Sylva a Portuguese, which we all declare to be entirely false & no ways agreable to the good Treatment we have met with here. For far from being treated as Prisoners We hereby Certify that it is to them we owe the Cure of our Wounds of which not one of Us could have recover'd without their charitable Assistance.

We are all arriv'd at their Camp, some before the Others & for the most part in the Night, their Army not being arriv'd at the Place where we were wounded. They were so kind as to supply us immediately with their own Cloaths & in short afforded Us all the Comfort necessary to wounded People wherefore Gent: we beg you will give no Credit to the Declaration of the said Aluro de Sylva for before his Departure we had Provissions more than we had Ocasion for & what was proper for our Disorders, for which we think ourselves Oblig'd to declare the Truth and have all of Us hereunto sign'd of our own accord at Waldore Camp the 5th. April with the English and the 16th. with the French 1750 & have left a Copy of this Declaration with the English to serve them in opposition to the Declaration of the said Aluro de Sylva.

Six of Us not being capable of Signing, have therefore made our Marks.

Marque de la Franchise. *		Francisque de Coste. *	
St. Omers. *	Montpelian. *	Negreville. *	Jolly Coeur. *

PINPOY.
CHAMP FLEURY.
ROUGEAU.

No. 12.

TO M^R DUPLEIX GOV^R: FOR THE HONBLE
COMPANY OF FRANCE AND THE GENTLEMEN
OF THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF PONDICHERRY.

Gentlemen

What we have to address You about at present, is your unfortunate People who were so desperately wounded and made Prisoners by Nazir Jing's Forces and as you have already been acquainted came for Relief to our Camp and

were under the Care of our Surgeons who being come here with our Troods and Seven now so well recover'd as to be able to return to You, upon their being sent for, we shall deliver them with the greatest readiness, but as our Gentlemen when in Camp could not obtain leave of Nazir Jung for their being sent back We must therefore make you accountable to him for them should he ever demand them of Us. One has died in our Hospital and the present bad State of the other two gives our Surgeons but little hopes of their Recovery. We have the honour to be Gentlemen Your most Obed^{t}. hum^{e}: Servants Ch^{s}: Floyer—E. C—S. L—A. W—F. W—T. C.

Fort St David 24th: April 1750.

No. 13.

Pondicherry 6th. May 1750.

To M^{r}. Floyer and the Gentlemen of Council of Fort St David.

Gentlemen

We have rec'd the Letter you did us the honour to write Us the 24th April O : S : We receiv'd likewise at the time it was remitted that of the 11th with the Pieces that accompanied it.

We are much oblig'd to you for the Care which you, Gentlemen, have been so kind to take of our People. We shall dispatch a Chelinga for them on which we pray of You to send them Us, and we shall receive them on the Conditions you mention if Nazir Jing requires them of You. We have remitted by your Chubdar the Bearer two hundred Gold Pagodas which with your leave we make a Present of to the Surgeon under whose Care these poor Unfortunate People have been. We have the honour to be Gentlemen Your most hum^{e}: and Obed^{t}. Serv^{t}. Dupleix—De St Paul—Barthelemy—Guillard.

No. 14.

Pondicherry the 2^{d} June 1750.

M^{r}. Floyer and the Gentlemen of Council at Fort St David.

Gentlemen

Our Commander General has communicated to Us the Lettres which he has had the honour to write to M^{r}. Floyer on the Subject of thirty three Coffrees which have taken Refuge in your Settlement, thirty of which belong to the Company & three to particular Persons here.

He has also laid before Us the Answers which M^{r}. Floyer has sent him. We see with pain that these Answers evade the well grounded Reasons that M^{r} Dupleix makes use of, and that they tend to nothing less than to detain against all Rule and Treaties a property so lawfully belonging to our Company, and of which the Peace ought to have insur'd them uninterupted Possession You'll perceive as well as we the little Force of the Reasons which M^{r} Floyer alledges. His mere Will is his Guide. The Peace, The Treaties the Efforts which our Monarchs are making to establish an advantageous & necessary Union cannot work upon him the least Impression and whilst in Europe they are enjoying the Sweets of so desireable a Peace, we see ourselves in India expos'd every Moment to the melancholy Effects of a War not yet at an end. We much doubt whether this is the Intention of his Brittannick Majesty or of your Employers so we are in hopes that they will be pleas'd to redress our Grievances which will be laid before them particularly that of detaining with so little foundation a property so lawful as Slaves. For this Reason We Protest against You, Gentlemen, in the fullest

form that can be for the unjust Detention which M^r^ Floyer has judg'd proper to make of thirty three Slaves which have run away within a few Days amounting together to 10,000 S. Dollars also for above thirty more which have deserted to You since the Peace amounting to nine thousand S. Dollars for which two Sums making together nineteen thousand S. D. we declare You answerable every one in your own Name and alltogether to our Company in whose Name and for whom we act making You also responsable before God and Man for the Consequences of Thefts, Assassinations and other Crimes which the Impunity, which the Slaves will find in Your Settlement contrary to the ordinary Custom, will infallibly occasion. We have the honour to be Gent. Your most Obedient humble Ser^ts^:

No. 15.

To M^R^ Dupleix and the Gentlemen of the Superior Council of Pondicherry.

Gentlemen

We have been honour'd with the Letter You wrote Us of the 2^d^ of June N. S: concerning the Coffrees we have lately entertain'd in our Service that have deserted to Us from your Settlement and have likewise perus'd the Letters that have pass'd between our President and M^r^ Dupleix on this Subject. We must say, We are much surpriz'd at the Demand you make of them as you cannot be ignorant of their [*sic*] having been Instances of many deserting from you to this place long before the War, without the least Notice being taken of it. By this proceeding we imagine you must be entirely unacquainted with the Method practis'd on the like Occasions in the West Indies where there are frequent Desertions of Negroes both to the Settlements of Your Nation as well as those of the Spaniards and altho' Application has often been made for them, They have never been restor'd nor will those belonging to your Company now here as we are not Strangers to their having acted under Arms not only against Us at Madrass but in the Field in embroiling this Country, by which the World will easily judge whether the Calamities of War it has lately felt has been owing to you or Us. Your Protest on this Account we shall therefore pay as little Regard to, as we have done to all those you have of late been pleased to transmit us, as your Foundation for it is not in the least Stronger. But must remark the Price you have valued them at is a little extraordinary as they are usually purchas'd at a much cheaper rate.

The polite manner Mons^r^. Dumesnil has applied in to our Governour for the Coffrees belonging to him has engaged him to grant permission for returning the one that is now here on his giving his word of Honour not to punish him for this Offence and sending for him. His Name is Estata Luke and is the only one belonging to private persons that has been entertain'd in our Service.

If you will give yourselves the trouble to examine your last Letter, you will find, that you are greatly deficient of the Politeness you so much boast of by censuring the Actions of our Governour which are too well weigh'd to leave room for it especially by you, who are such weak Judges of the Laws, Customs of Nations, and of the Sense of Treaties.

We cannot help expressing our great Astonishment at your making us responsible for all Thefts, Assassinations, and other Crimes, that may be committed by the Slaves that we entertain as it is well known to the World, that all Crimes punishable by our Laws are never suffer'd to go with Impunity; though your Settlement put it quite out of our Power to treat a Man that murder'd his Officer upon Duty (by giving him Protection when he was demanded) according to the Nature of that Crime. Which has prevented our applying to you now for one Dugald Carmichael who has been guilty of a Murder and fled from Justice to You the 3^d^ Instant, as we cannot suppose you would be more ready to do such an Action than your Predecessors formerly were. We have the Hon^r^. to be Gentlemen Your most Obed^t^. him^e^. Servants, Edward Croke—Stringer Lawrence—Alexander Wynch—Foss Westcott—Thomas Cooke.

F. S^t^. Dd.
24 May 1750.

No. 16.

Pondicherry the 9th. June 1750.

M^R. FLOYER GOVERNOR
AND THE GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL.

Gentlemen

For many Reasons we might have dispensed with answering the Letter which you did Us the Hon^r. to write us the 24th. of last Month O: S: the principal is the little Respect we are treated with in almost all the Letters we receive from you but as in this last you advance many Facts which need an Explanation on our part we have determin'd to send an Answer that our Silence may not be imputed to any Power of the Truth of the Circumstances you there alledge.

It is impossible that any Slaves belonging to our Company can have deserted to your Settlement before the War because there then were none in theirs nor did any arrive 'till the Year 1746 so this Argument fall [*sic*] of itself.

We are not ignorant of the Custom us'd in America and it is because this Custom never was established in the East Indies that we guide ourselves by what has been practis'd at all times on this Coast, at Bengal, and on the Malabar Coast in short at all places where we have Factories in the Neighbourhood of yours or of the Dutch. M^r. Croke who for many Years has been a Judge of the Choultry at your Settlement can ascertain you the Custom of returning Slaves on both Sides. How many has he not sent back? and how many have we not upon his Application deliver'd from hence? Since the Peace all that have been demanded by him have been returned, and he has acted in the same manner with regard to all that have been claim'd from hence see there therefore, a Custom established & kept in practize. That of America can be of no force because it was never thought of in the East, and because that which is here establish'd is more coherent with the Rules of Equity and good order than what you make your Support on this Occasion. A new Custom which you admit only as you find it agreable to the part you have thought proper to act. This Pleasure of Yours is not sufficient to abolish an ancient Custom. You as well as we stand in need of superior Orders to alter it, therefore before such Orders are receiv'd we are in full Right to reclaim them and the Reasons which you alledge to dispence with your taking no notice of it can in reality nothing diminish a Custom established time out of mind.

We can further say, that this Custom has not been broke off between us even in time of War. It is notorious to all the World, that at the Capture of Madras, there was not detain'd or taken a single Slave of either Sex. The Officers, Passengers, and others, of the Sumatra, Brilliant, and of the Ship Faquira, had their Slaves, and did what they pleas'd with them. There was never even Enquiry made whether they had any or not. At the same time that we can advance these Facts as Truths, can we say that your Commodores & the Commanders of your Squadrons have shewn our Captive Officers the same Regard? M^r Duplessis would have been, and several others are, Witnesses of the Refusal made them of their Slaves, at the same time that your Nation had quiet possession of theirs which they ow'd certainly to nothing but pure Generosity. Some hundreds of Slaves dismiss'd without the least Enquiry made was not enough to engage them to return us half a Dozen. It gives us pain to recall Facts that we had forgot. We lay them before you only to make you sensible that be there Peace or be there War, we find with you, Gentlemen, the same Respect and the same way of thinking.

M^r Dupleix has already answer'd M^r Floyer on the use a Master may make of his Slave, to repeat it here would be unnecessary, we refer you to that. It lies not with you, Gentlemen, to decide whether there be Justice or not in the

Protests you have oblig'd us to issue. The Cause of our Employers wou'd run a great risque if it depended on You.

It is an easy matter for you to get rid of the Dispute about the price we have put on the Slaves of the Company, deliver them up according to Custom and there will be no more said about them.

M^r^. Dumesnil will value himself much on the preference you are pleas'd to give him to his Masters. But may it not be imagined that the force of Custom has decided in his Favour, and that you are under the same Obligation with Respect to those belonging to our Company? For an establish'd Custom can admit of no preference.

We do not censure the Actions of your Governor. We argue against the Reasons that he has advanc'd to support his proceeding nor did we make use of any Terms that could stain the Politesse we pique ourselves upon, and which will always be the Foundation of our Correspondence. The comparison with impartial People will make between your Letters and ours will easily decide on which Side there is room for Complaint. The end of the Paragraph of your Letter which occasions this Article, although very injurious is but a slight Sketch of the many that we have the mortification to be oblig'd to represent, They have always appear'd the more surprizing to us, as among all our former Correspondence we no where meet with such harsh and offensive Terms as your Letters have of late times been fill'd with.

'Tis with reason that we declare you answerable for all the unhappy Consequences of the certain Protection that our Slaves will find in your Settlements because you are the first to break through a Custom so wisely established for the mutual Security of our Settlements. We should have been in the same Case, had we been the first to run counter to it.

It would have given us Pleasure if when you had advanc'd a Fact of such importance as that mention'd in the end of your Letter, you had told us at what time this Circumstance happen'd, whatever search we have made among our Records and by enquiry from the Persons, who have been the longest in India, we have not been able to discover the least Traces of this Affair, still it should seem by what you say of it, that it must have occasion'd some writing of one side and th' other. Our Search has been to no purpose and you will do us a Service in pointing out the time of a Fact which appears to us as well as you of the utmost importance. The ignorance we are in of this Affair impedes us totally from giving you any Answer to this Article. But supposing it to be true (which we cannot doubt as you advance it) it can have no respect to the Murder, which you accuse Dugald Carmichael of, in as much as if this Man says true, the Murder you charge him with & he denies was a Consequence of a Quarrel among some drunken Soldiers which happen'd in the passage Boat between Cuddalore and Fort St David so, if what this Man alledges is true, he is not in the same Case as the beforementioned, because this last Crime was but an Accident, and the almost inevitable Effect of Drunkenness without any premeditated Design without laying in ambush for him and without opposition to good order and Subordination. We are apt to think this is the true Reason that you did not demand him, and not the one you have been pleased to advance, for if that is true there is great appearance it had been forgot, because since then there have been Criminals deliver'd up on both sides whose Cases could by no means admit of a pardon. There remains Gentlemen for us to assure you that any Person guilty of the Crime of wilful Murder, or who have acted contrary to Good-order and Subordination shall never find protection in our Settlements, but shall be deliver'd, upon the first Application, provided the proofs are certain and the Crime publick. We shall conclude the present by renewing the protests contain'd in our Letter of the second of this Month. We have the Hon^r^: to be Gentlemen Your most obed^t^: hum^e^: Servants DUPLEIX—DE S^T^. PAUL—BARTHELEMY—GUILLARD—FRIELL.

No. 17.

To Mr. Dupleix Governour and the
Gentleman of the Superiour
Council of Pondicherry.

Gentlemen

We have had the Honour of your last Letter of the 9th Instant N: S: in which the first Article that presents to us to reply to, is your Accusation of our treating you with little Respect and which we must say a little surprizes us, as we can not conceive you have in the least a better Title to it than ourselves, or that our Actions have at any time been such as to give you room to imagine we are so totally void of common Understanding to think ourselves oblig'd to shew you greater Civility, than you have thought proper to treat us with, Not that we can recollect any of our Letters have been near so deficient in that particular as those we have receiv'd from you, and although you tell us that Politesse [*sic*] will always be the Foundation of your Correspondence, we can justly assert and are well convinced it will be allow'd by all impartial People that you have been hitherto greatly wanting in that Respect.

As you assure us your Company had no Coffrees belonging to them at Pondicherry before the War we cannot think otherwise and in support of what we wrote you, that several had come here and taken service with us at that time belonging to your Company without being demanded, we can only say, that as you have better Opportunities for being supplyed with those People, than any other Nation on this Coast, and we were not positively acquainted from whence those that enter'd with us, came, we imagin'd it was from your Settlement, but it matters not much where they came from, as they were never claim'd which is a sufficient Instance that you are mistaken in your Allegation of a Custom's being establish'd for the delivery of Slaves otherwise they would certainly have been demanded of us by their owners our Records dont make the least mention of any Agreement of that kind therefore we shall acknowledge ourselves oblig'd to you, if you will point out to us the time when any such was made between your Settlement and this. We must allow several have been return'd on both sides by Courtesy, not in the least from any right either had to demand them, therefore if that alone induces you to conceive it to be an establish'd Custom, we must still assure you we are not of that opinion.

With regard to the Murder mention'd in our last of which you desire a more particular Account, We find it was perpetrated by one Ian Petterson in the Month of October in the Year 1724 who was then a Gunner under the Command of one Ensign Key the Person he assassinated and we understand he was afterwards entertained in the same Station in your Service at Areacopang, Besides this Instance, we have another to give you of a Corporal of this Garrison, by Name Guiné who stabb'd a Boy which he left for dead, and made his Escape to your Settlement, where we find he was protected although one of our Officers, John de Morgan was sent to demand him as a Murderer, for he was not deliver'd up till a Pardon was granted him, this happen'd in the year 1712, and as the Correspondence relating to these Matters were carried on between the Governours of your Settlement and ours we apprehend that must be the reason you can find no mention of them in your Records, nor of another Action of your persuing some Deserters from your Garrison into our Bounds and retaking one, far within the Hedge of Trees set to distinguish them, this was done in the Month of September in the Year 1731 during the time of Monsieur le Noir being Governor of Pondicherry and Mr. Fowke Deputy Governor of this place, and is an Affair we should have been backward to mention did not our former Correspondence on this Subject make it necessary to prove the Invalidity of your Protest on that Account, and notwithstanding you persist in renewing the Protests contain'd in your Letter of the 2d. June we doubt not time will demonstrate them to be of as little Signification. We have the Honr. to be Gentlemen Your most Obedt: humes: Servants C. F.—E. C.—S. L.—A. W.—F. W.—T. C.

Fort St. David
20th June 1750.

No. 18.

Pondicherry the 14th July 1750.

MR FLOYER AND THE
GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL AT
FORT ST DAVID.

Gentlemen

The present is only to assure you that we have perfect Information that on the 12 Instt a Detachment, composed of Europeans, Topasses, Seapoys and Peons with some Pieces of Cannon commanded by Captain Cope, and some other Officers, march'd out of your Settlement in order to join our Enemy. We make you acquainted likewise by the present, that our People having been oblig'd to quit our House at Yanam, made themselves Masters of it afresh by driving away such of our Enemies as had possess'd themselves of it who through their precipitate Flight left behind them three Pieces of Cannon which it is apparent were furnish'd them by your Servants at Ingeram of which proper Depositions have been taken.

Hence it is plain that in all places where our Enemies think proper to attack us they are sure to find from you all the Assistance you are able to give them. The Equivocation you have been pleased heretofore to make use of in order to support your Proceedings can by no means take place at Yanam, it should likewise have fail'd here ever since we declared to you that we were a principal Party, and that our Enemies neglected not to attack us wherever they were able. That they have succeeded no better is not their fault they do at least all that they can, but as you find, no doubt, that they do not enough, you have thought proper to join Your Forces with theirs. Upon whatever Footing you give them this Assistance you run directly counter to the Treaties of Alliance and Union subsisting between our Monarchs. These solemn Treaties cannot restrain you nor do you trouble yourselves about the unhappy Consequences which may flow from it both here and in Europe. Although we are sensible of the little Signification of these Reflexions, we still think ourselves oblig'd to declare to you that Nazir Jung and his Adherents are our Enemies that they attack us in all places and that we act the same Part with regard to them, that the places and Forts where we have hoisted the flag of our King are his Property as long as those flags are flying, that if your Detachments approach in a hostile manner these places or the Detachments that we are oblig'd to send out, you will answer before your Monarch and Ours for the Breeches [*sic*] which you have made or hereafter may make in the Treaties subsisting between the two Nations.

Further, We do summon you in the Name of these Treaties and these Monarchs to recall your Detachment and to prohibit all that are under your Orders to give any Succour of any sort whatever to our Enemy. This Summons made on our part being according to Form, we declare to you that if you think not proper to conform to it we make you answerable for all Events which cannot but be the unhappy Consequences of your Refusal That the presence of your Succours shall not impede us in the prosecution of our Operations. Protesting as is our Right in the best Form possible against you, Gentlemen and against all that like you give Assistance to our Enemies of any sort whatever. We have the Honr to be Gentlemen Your most Obedt. humle. Servants, DUPLEIX—DE ST. PAUL—BARTHELEMI—FRIELL.

No. 19.

To MR DUPLEIX GOVERNOR
AND THE GENTLEMEN OF THE
SUPERIOUR COUNCIL OF PONDICHERRY

Gentlemen

We have the Honr. to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 14th Instant N: S: acquainting us with the Information you had received of a Detachment from our Settlement being march'd out to join your Enemy as also of three

Pieces of Cannon being taken in your Factory at Yanam which they were supply'd with by our Servants at Ingeram. It is very certain we have granted Assistance to the Lawful Prince of the Province, to reduce a Rebell Who you have supported in destroying the Country and disturbing the Peace of those people employed by us in Carrying on our Investments, & with Respect to the Guns found at Yanam we do not deny their having belonged to Us as We have been acquainted by our Resident at Ingeram that they were forc'd from him by the Moors. To convince You of our Pacifick Inclinations If you will quit the Interests of Chunda Saib, who has been the only Cause of the Disturbance in this Country, and recall Your Troops, We shall do the same by Annawardee Cawn and leave the Country to be settled by the lawful Prince, Who has the only Right of doing it.

As this Proposal we imagine will be judg'd reasonable by all impartial People, if you refuse it, we do also Protest against You Gentlemen in the fullest form We can and declare you to be accountable for all the Unhappy Consequences that may attend your Refusal.

You must surely Entertain an extream ill Opinion of Us to imagine, we should be such Dupes as to remain Quiet while You are destroying the Interest of our Company by levying Contributions on and frightening from their Habitations the Persons employ'd by Us to carry on their Trade in these Parts which is a Character we shall always endeavour to be undeserving of by protecting to the utmost of our Power the People we employ. We have the honour to be Gentlemen Your most Obed^{t}: hum^{e} Serv^{t}: C^{HS}: Floyer—E. C.—S. L.—A. W.—F. W—T. C.

Fort S^{t}. David
6th. July 1750.

No. 20.

M^{R}. Floyer and the Gen^{T}
of the Superior Council at
Fort St. David.

Pondicherry the 18 July 1750.

Gentlemen

We have rec'd the Letter you did Us the honour to write Us the 20th. June O:S: in Answer to Ours of the 9th of the same Month N: S: We cannot tell you at what time the reciprocal Restitution of Slaves was establish'd between our Settlements; 'Tis a Custom, that those who have been the longest here found so and it has been continued in the same manner between the two Factories; we do not know that there was any Agreement sign'd on this Subject it was established only on Good Faith and We have always look'd upon it as a just Thing since You are not of the same Opinion, We are oblig'd to Change likewise. But before you made a detention of the Companys Slaves You should in our Opinion have given Us Notice of Your Intentions.

Whatever Search we have been able to make we can find out nothing regarding the Facts you alledge at the end of your Letter, so we have nothing to say in Answer therto, besides they are quite Foreign to the Affair of the Slaves.

You have not done us the Pleasure to Answer our last Letter, the Subject it is upon made Us think you would have done Us the honour of an Answer without Loss of time, We are in hopes of receiving it every minute. We have the hon^{r} to be wth Respect Gentlemen Your most obed^{t} hum^{e} Serv^{ts} Dupleix.—De St Paul.—Barthelemy.—Friell.

No. 21.

To M^{R}. Floyer Gov^{R}: & the Gentlemen of Council

Gentlemen

We have the honour to reply to the letter we have receiv'd from You under date the 6th of July O.S. which is an Answer to Ours of the 14th N. S. It is

proper to acquaint You that we did not receive it 'till 11 O'Clock on Sunday Morning. You acknowledge that the Cannon which were taken at Yanam belong to You and that by what Your Resident at Ingeram says, They were taken by force by the Moors. It was the same no doubt with the Ammunition and necessary Stores belonging to these Pieces which were likewise found with them. We question whether they will be able to persuade themselves in Europe of the Reality of this pretended Violence it will always at least be well prov'd that our Enemies find with you all that they stand in need of to attack us, no matter where, There by force, Here of your own pure Will, in another Place perhaps by Sale or under some other Pretext as plausible as those you have heretofore made use of. Under whatever Title You can authorize these Proceedings, They will be totally opposite to the Treaties of Peace, Alliance &ca and particularly to that of Aix la Chapelle the first Article of which we have transcrib'd at length that without giving yourselves the Trouble to look after it, you may find it here Word for Word.

Article 1st.

"There shall be a Christian Universal and perpetual Peace as well by Sea "as Land and a Sincere & constant Friendship between the eight Powers "abovenamed, their Heirs Successers Kingdoms Estates, Provinces Coun- "tries Subjects and Vassals of what Quality or Condition soever they be, "without exception of Place or Person in such sort that the high contracting "Parties shall give the Greatest Attention towards the maintaining between "themselves & their said Estates & Subjects this reciprocal Amity and "Correspondence without permitting on one side or th' Other any sort of "Hostility to be committed for any Cause or under any Pretext whatever "and avoiding every thing that may hereafter impair the Union happily "reestablish'd between them endeavouring on the contrary to encourage on "all Occasions any thing that may contribute to their mutual Glory, Interests "and Advantages without giving any Succour or Protection directly or "indirectly to such as would do any prejudice to one or th'other of the "said high contracting parties."

The Reading of this Article must certainly Gent make you sensible how far You have err'd from what is there so precisely enjoin'd, as well to You as Us. The Terms are clear and decisive. You cannot without rendering yourselves culpable before our Respective Monarchs, act as You do unless you are persuaded that Subjects may without Risque infringe or set in Oblivion the most solemn Treaties express'd in such Terms as neither You, Gent, nor We, can give any other Interpretation to, than that which they ought to bear before Subjects, Obedient as we ought to be to the Orders of our Sovereigns, Is it possible you can be persuaded of the contrary and at the same time of Impunity? The Illusion would be too strong and we are convinc'd that the force of the clear and decisive Terms of this first Article of a Treaty which has restor'd a Calm to Europe, and which we lay before You, will make the same Impression on You as we assure you it ever will on Us. Being in a firm persuasion that faithful subjects cannot without being wanting in the Respect due to their Sovereign and rendering themselves criminal, transgress the Rules which he thinks proper to prescribe, without any other Interpretation on their Part than that which is render'd so perfectly apparent to all the World and by which without the least doubt His Majesty the King of Great Britain, guides himself likewise. It would be to no purpose for Sovereigns to make Treaties like this, if the first of their subjects might with Impunity infringe them on pretences so frivolous and establish'd with so little Solidity as those You have heretofore made Use of. Your Masters at London and ours at Paris will soon discover the Motives that urg'd you to act; Ah! how shou'd they be kept Secret when the whole Indies are acquainted with them.

We observe that in many of your Letters You affect to make Use of the Term (Lawful Prince) to whom You have given Succours; Do you mean by that the

Great Mogol? He is certainly the only one that this Title can be given to, We know no other in all his vast Empire. And certainly we may venture to assure the whole Earth that he never ask'd your Assistance and that it is not to him you have given it and that this Monarch never intended to make War upon Us. We shall prove the contrary at a proper time & place. He is not perhaps even inform'd of the Conduct that you observe with his Enemy, for 'tis without doubt Nazir Jing that you would describe by this Title which never belong'd to him You are the only People in the whole Empire that are pleas'd to Lavish it on him. It would be a Crime in the Mouth of a Subject of the Great Mogol that of faithful Slave is his true Title but the Great Mogol has not one more unfaithful. Is it possible that you would willingly appear ignorant that his father Nizamalmoluck Governor by Force of Decan was a Rebellious Subject: India and Persia Witnesses and Favourers of his Rebellion still feel the Effects of the Rapines and Ravages which he occasioned. His Son who has succeeded him against the Will of the Lawful Prince in his Government and in his Rebellion is finishing the Work that he begun. You are not ignorant of any of these Circumstances and that he is only a Rebel whom you act in Conjunction with. But you thought that this Title of Lawful Prince would be at least a slight Cloak to the Steps you have taken and continue still to take It gives Us pain to make the Cheat appear. It needs but time and the true motives of your Conduct will be unveil'd. Furthermore the Legitimacy or Illegitimacy of this Lord cannot, or ought not to engage you to act contrary to the Orders of your Sovereign nor against the Treaties which he has thought proper to make with Ours. So this pretence and these Terms w^ch^ you have hitherto thrown before the Eyes of the Blind fall of themselves before people that will see and have any Knowledge. These very pretences and Titles only better founded might have supported us when you thought proper to bring from the Dead the former King of Tanjour and made it your Business to pull the reigning Prince from the Throne to place a phantom on it. Offers of all Kinds were made Us by the Lawful prince as well as a Summons to observe the Treaties that we have made with him. Nothing could determine us to exceed the Bounds that were then set us. We sat still and saw your Operations nor did we throw the least Opposition in your way and you finish'd your Affairs as you pleas'd without our troubling ourselves to examine into the Justice or injustice of your Hostilities. Obedience to the Orders of our Sovereign and the Policy necessary in this Country kept Us within Bounds which you found very agreable to your Interest at that time but which you think not proper to confine yourselves to in your Turn. You cannot as we did, withstand Offers and you do your Endeavours to effectuate your Demands, that is the truth of your Proceedings, all the Rest are but pretences to colour your Conduct. Please to be persuaded that we are not ignorant of any of your Negotiations and that you have forgot nothing towards their Success. The most Solemn Treaties are brought into Question and You have without the least Reluctance join'd with an Enemy to the Name of Christian, with a Rebel, to ruin, if it lay in your Power, other Christians who are in full peace with You. If this Conduct is disapprov'd in time of War, what Epithet should be given it in time of Peace? If your Company, Gent is perfectly inform'd as we doubt not they will of your Correspondence with Mahomet Alli Cawn at Trichenopoly, and with Nazir Jing as well as of that which You entertain'd with one and the other, by the means of Mahomed Ally Cawn's Brother in Law Abdul Jaleel, who liv'd then at Trepopilore they will see without having room to doubt that they owe to nobody but You and this Mahomet Ally Cawn the Ravages which Nazir Jing is come to make in this Province, He would never have come into it or would have kept himself at a great Distance had it not been for the promise of immense Succours which he was made to hope for from you and which you ceas'd not to offer him in hopes of obtaining the Requests you made him the Expectations of these Sucours and the Desire on your Side of gaining has done all the Mischief, why should it be attributed to other Motives when it is clear as the Day that the Desolation not only of this province, but of more than four hundred Leagues of the Country is owing only to You. You are

not ignorant that Nazir Jing himself is convinc'd of this Truth and he is not to repent that he trusted You; His shameful Flight to Arcot, and the almost general Abandon of that Army which should according to You have swallow'd up every thing and not left on Stone upon another at Pondicherry, will be always Subjects of Mortification which he will never forget; no more than the People that occasion'd them.

Give Us leave to tell You that the Offers w^ch^ You have made Us to convince us of your Pacifick Inclinations will appear the more extraordinary to our Sovereigns as We were of Opinion with them that it was not lawful for You to have any other; The Offer you have made Us discovers your Conduct. Was there nothing else that would have that Effect? hitherto we always entertain'd a Certain Doubt but you have now clear'd that up Obedient to the Orders and to the Will of our Sovereign and Yours, we have built 'till now upon good Faith, but we have deceiv'd ourselves and Your Troops in the Field as well as the Offer you have made us to withdraw them must make us think that you usurp a Right to declare War against us or to accede to the Treaties of Peace just as you please. We confess, Gent, that we have neither of these Rights nor shall we ever without Superior Orders make it necessary for us to Convince you of our Pacifick Inclinations. These Inclinations depend not on us and be it with or against our Will, we shall conform always to the pleasure of our Sovereign. You are then very much your own Masters and according to your principal of Continuing or recalling your Forces those that we have had in the Field a long time cannot be design'd against You, and the Commanding Officer has Orders in Consequence But when Yours are join'd with our Enemies in any Action it will be difficult to direct the Shot, in such a manner but that some may fly among your Troops, Besides being intermix'd and in Conjunction with our Enemies is it not declaring themselves our Enemy? and why shou'd they be longer spar'd. It is a great while ago since We had the honour to declare to You that we were a principal party. If you wou'd make Doubts appear where there ought to be none, it is because they are agreable to your Ideas, not to the Truth of the Fact. Our Enemy attacks us in all places. He spares us not, We do the same and will not leave him quiet 'till he has redress'd our Grievances and restor'd a Peace which we desire as much as You, and which might have been concluded without your making afresh such mighty preparations which always tend to a certain point which you might have arriv'd at very easily had you had a mind, What Desolation would you not have prevented to so large a Country?

You are in the right to protect those that are employ'd in your Affairs. They find among us the same protection, but do you pretend to comprehend all the Subjects of this province in that Number? Your protection, is a little too far push'd. The same Argument might have serv'd Us in your War of Tanjour but we know the falsity of it. You advance all this only to give some sort of Colour to your Proceedings, but your Company, Gentlemen, judicious as they are will soon perceive all the Imprudence as well as the Nullity of the Protest which you thought fit to slip into your last Letter as a Counterpoize to all that we had made before which you have given us Room too often to renew and which we now again Confirm. The little Measure you have observ'd in your Conduct with Us will make it apparent to your Company that some thing further than their Service and that of your Sovereign has been your Guide 'till now. Subjects like Us cannot and ought not to give so great a length to their passion as you take upon yourselves to do. There are Bounds, they are prescrib'd to you as well as Us. We are acquainted with them, and cannot persuade ourselves that you are ignorant of them. We have the honour to be w^th^ Respect. Gent: Your most Obedient humble Serv^ts^ DUPLEIX—DE ST. PAUL—BARTHELEMI—FRIELL.

Pondicherry
the 21^st^ July 1750.

No. 22.

To Mr. Lawrence
Gov. of Fort St. David

Pondicherry the 28th July 1750
at 10 O'Clock at Night.

Sir

The Commanding Officer of our Troops has Orders not to molest our Enemy whilst they are upon your Ground this Order has been perfectly executed hitherto and I had reason to think that, according to the ordinary Custom and which you can not be ignorant of, You would not have suffer'd this same Enemy to take advantage of their secure Situation to come and fall upon our Village of Bowhore where the King's Flag has been hoisted a long time A peon who is this moment arriv'd from that place, tells me this News and that thirty of his Comrades have been made prisonners after having made as good a Defence as their small Number and Indian Courage would allow of. But what Resistance could they make against above a thousand Seapoys arm'd with your Firelocks and perhaps as many Horsemen. These Acts of Hostility committed from your Territories upon Ours are totally contrary to the Treaties I have communicated to you what is pass'd in hopes that you will be pleas'd to give Orders that these peons are set at Liberty their Arms restor'd and the Kings Flag put up in its place. I have the honour to be wth Respect.

No. 23.

Mr. Lawrence Governor
and the Gentlemen of Council

Pondicherry the 1st Aug. 1750.

Gentlemen

Herewith is a Copy of a Letter from Mr. La Touche the Commander of our Troops to Mr Cope with the Answer he receiv'd. This Answer will appear to You perhaps ambiguous as it does to Us. To endeavour to reestablish the Tranquillity of this Province, is a pretence which certainly passes for plausible with him and without doubt with You. But what Coherence has the reestablishment of this Tranquillity with the Siege that your Troops are now actually carrying on of a Fort, or rather a fortified Pagoda call'd Tervedy which we made ourselves Masters of some time ago and upon which the King's Flag is hoisted 'tis therefore a Conquest which belongs to Us and on which You can have no Views notwithstanding your pretended Alliance with Mahomed Ally Cawn he is with Respect to Us only a General under our Enemy Nazir Jung. It is sufficient Gentlemen that our Kings Flag is hoisted there, to stop your proceedings without any Further Reflexions than those that we shall make. Suppose on the same specious Reasons that you give out to Cloak the too notorious Infringement that you make in the Treaties and Alliance which are in force, We should join with your Enemies and go and attack you in your Settlements and in the new places where You have thought proper to hoist your Colours, We are too well acquainted with the Respect that is prescrib'd us on this Subject, ever to transgress. Why does not the Flag of our King meet with the same Respect at your Hands? You will answer this before our Monarchs. And so far are You from restoring, as you say, Peace to this province, that You are rather doing all in your power to prevent its ever being reestablish'd. If You are really thus pacifickly inclin'd, resume certain Sentiments that you adopted a few days ago and which unhappily for You for Us and for this province did not subsist long some new Negotiations made them vanish and the utter ruin of this Province will without doubt be the Consequence and perhaps something still more melancholy which you will not foresee and which is nevertheless very easy to be discover'd, Which obliges Us to Protest in the best form possible against the too direct Blow that you strike at the Alliance

which subsists between our Kings, in attacking, as You are now actually doing, the Fort of Trividy where the King's Flag is hoisted and where we have plac'd a Garrison in the Name of him, our Master, further we protest against You, for what pass'd at Bahour, of which M^r. Dupleix gave Advice to M^r. Lawrence who has not honour'd him with a Word in answer, we are perfectly sensible of the Inutility of our Representations, but we are oblig'd to make them to shew ourselves in form before the King and his Ministers to whom we owe an Account of our Conduct. But to shew that we are as desirous of the peace of the Country as you let Mahomed Alli Cawn return with his Troops to Arcot and Yours reenter your Bounds, Ours also shall come back, and every one shall remain in possession of what he now holds, and all Hostilities cease, 'till a peace is concluded. If this party is agreable to you, You may notify it to M^r Cope on the Receipt of this Letter, and we are now going to write to M^r De la Touche to conform himself to such Notification by suspending all Hostilities, if you declare that you accept of the Offer that we have the honour to make You. We have that of being with Respect Gent. Your most Obed^t. hum^e. Servants DUPLEIX—DE ST PAUL—BARTHELEMY—FRIELL.

By the Council
A. BOYELLEAU

Copy of the Letter writ by M^r de la Touche to M^r Cope from the French Camp the 31 July 1750.

Sir

I am very sensibly oblig'd to you for the generous Care you have been pleas'd to take of the Seapoys you have sent me and of the Portuguese who is at your Hospital whom also you will do me a pleasure to send me to ease you of the Trouble: I have shewn the same Regard to some of Your Nation that were found in the same Situation during the War and it gave me great pleasure to serve them on that Occasion as it will do always.

I see You with a strong Detachment join'd with the Enemies of our Nation upon the Territories of our Company and Your Seapoys attack'd Ours and I have been even assur'd some of your Europeans were with them in the little Fray th' Other Day I cannot Sir reconcile this manner of acting with the Treaties of peace made between our two Nations. You will do me a great pleasure in advising me if these Treaties are broken or why you so openly seek to break them or in short in what Quality or on what Footing you are with Mahomed Ally Cawn, who, as you know Sir is our declar'd Enemy I wait the honour of your Answer on this subject and have that of being with the greatest Respect Sir &ca Sign'd PROVOT DE LA TOUCHE

Copy compar'd with the Original one lodg'd in my Hands in the Office of the Secry to the Superior Council of Pondicherry the 1^st. Aug^st. 1750.

English Camp July 20^th. O : S :

Sir

I am honour'd with yours and am much oblig'd to you for your good Intentions of serving any of our People when distress'd, we have had many Instances of your Humanity and on our part shall never be wanting in that State whenever it falls in our Way to assist any of your Nation.

With regard to my present proceedings I am sent here as an Ally to Mohomed Ally Cawn w^th Orders to Assist him to the Utmost of my power in Settleing the Tranquility of this Province which I shall be very glad to see effected without any thing happening that may occasion a Misunderstanding between us, my Endeavours for this purpose shall never be wanting. in the mean time I am with the greatest Respect and Consideration Sir Your most obedient humble Serv^t JAMES COPE.

Collationé sur L' Original
FRIELL

No. 24.

To Mr. Dupliex Govr.
and the Gentlemen of the
Superior Counci of Pondicherry.

Gentlemen

I have received two Letters from You one of the 28th July and the other the 1st: August.

The first of these I did not answer before for Reasons which You, Gentlemen can easily conjecture. But since You rather chuse to impute my silence to want of Respect, I shall beg leave to remind You of the present Situation of Affairs in this Country which I can conceive will be an ample Defence of all that we have hitherto done and consequently a Compleat Answer to the greatest part of both your Letters.

You know Gentlemen that Mahomed Ally Cawn the lawful Nabob of this Country has been lately attack'd and his Territories plunder'd by the Rebel Chunda Saib who not contented with destroying our Trade and pillaging the Manufacturers on whom this Settlement relies for a Supply of Goods has proceeded so far as to pretend to dispose of large Tracts of Land close to our Bounds the more Effectually to Stop our Commerce and deprive the English of all footing upon this Coast. In this general Confusion, which seem'd to be principally aim'd at the ruin of our Interests we had been highly Criminal with Regard both to our Cuntry and Employers had we not assisted Mahomed Ally Cawn the lawful Nabob to settle the Tranquillity of the Country and oppose the mischievous projects of Chunda Saib. However as we learnt with great Grief from your own Letters that You were the principals in these Disturbances and that You were resolv'd to assist Chunda Saib to the utmost of your Power we to avoid with the utmost caution every Circumstance that might bear the least misinterpretation gave the strictest Orders to our Officers, never to attack or molest any of your Troops which should be in the Army of the Rebel unless in their own Defence or when first fired on. This Order, Gentlemen, our Officers have hitherto punctually Comply'd with and this We think a full Confutation of all the Complaints You have made against our Conduct, and we are satisfied that when you consider the particulars of our Behavior; You will agree that it was impossible for Us to have acted with more Caution or Circumspection than we have done. But it seems this Disposition of ours has not produc'd on your Side the good Effects we expected. For we have the Mortification to hear by Letters from our Camp this Morning that your Troops have fired upon our Europeans in their march without any pretence or provocation given them. This Proceedure is the more extraordinary as your Letter of Yesterday written perhaps just before this Insult proposes some ambiguous Terms of Accomodation which our great desire to see this Country again in peace would otherwise have induced Us to have requested You to explain, But seeing all our Intentions thus frustrated I am oblig'd to protest as I hereby do against this Insult on our Troops, and to demand that exemplary punishment be inflicted on those Who have thus attack'd Us in time of full Peace between the two Crowns and if You deny this Justice I protest that you alone are answerable for all the Consequences which may attend so violent and unprecedented Behavior. We shall not fail to acquaint our Superiours of all that has passed upon this occasion and doubt not but whatever Success we may have here, The Equity of our Respective Monarchs will not permit such lawless proceedings to pass uncensur'd. I have the honour to be Gentlemen Your most Obedt. humble Servt Stringer Lawrence

Fort St. David
22d July 1750.

P. S. There is still in our Hospital one of Your Serjeants by Name Manuel de Fonsica belonging to Monsieur La Fontain's Compy whom we shall send to You as

soon as he is able to undertake the Journey. And have to acquaint You, that some of your Military going to Carracal in a Boat, being greatly distress'd for provissions we suply'd them therewith.

S.L.

No. 25.

Pondicherry the 3$^{d.}$ Augst: 1750

M^{R} Lawrence Governour
of Fort St. David

Sir

We have receiv'd the Letter you did Us the honour to write Us Yesterday as it does not at all Answer the Articles of Ours, which it is meant as a Reply to and as on the contrary you do your Endeavours to cover with a Cloak far deviating from the Truth the Surprizing Conduct that you observe with Us under pretences as subtle as ill founded, We shall content ourselves hereafter with having proper Depositions taken of every thing that comes to our Knowledge and forwarding them to our Superiours who with Yours shall be the Judges of your Conduct and Ours. We have no further Answer to make on the Subject of the Letter from the Commanding Officer of your Troops than that which M^{r} De la Touche made him. That contains a great deal.

Our Offers (We never thought we should have occasion to make You them under such Circumstances) no longer tally with your new Ideas; They are ambiguous though at the same time Conformable to what you made us in a Letter from your Council of the 6th July O: S: This Refusal on your part is a perfect Confirmation to us that the Tranquillity of this province with which you veil all Your Conduct is not the real Point to which You tend, if you had that truly at Heart after an Offer first made on your side, you would not have hesitated to accept our proposal hence it is plain that this is not what you have most at heart.

You make use of the Name of Chunda Saib to no purpose you have been a long time acquainted that we never acted in his Name and still less at this time than ever, You say you are concern'd to understand that we are a principal Party. Your Designs, your Negotiations and the Declar'd War that you are making upon Us are certain proofs to Us that This Title cannot prevent your making no Account of the Treaties which ought to be very much respected and engaging yourself in a Quarrel with one of the greatest Monarchs in Europe. You support this Proceeding unmov'd by protests. Are you in the right to do this ? and why do you concern yourselves in our Quarrels ? It would be singular enough that your Seapoys your People in Disguise should have free Liberty to fall upon Us Wth out our revenging ourselves. It would be matter of Laughter if we were good natur'd enough to give into this way of thinking which ought not to be mention'd but to People depriv'd of their Senses.

When we had the honour to write you the day before Yesterday we were perfectly ignorant of the Battle which your Troops join'd with Mahomed Ally Cawn's fought against our's, and we were not inform'd 'till Yesterday Morning. Our Officers have made a particular relation of this Affair which shall have a place among the pieces that we have got to send to Europe it will be an undoubted proof of the little Regard you shew our respective Sovereigns, We are much oblig'd to You for the Care you are pleas'd to take of our People that fall into Your Hands. We shall shew our Gratitude on all Occasions but shall for ever avoid laying ourselves under the same Circumstances. We are with Respect Sir Your most obedient humble Servants, Dupleix—De S$^{t.}$ Paul—Barthelemy—Friell.

No. 26.

To Mr Dupleix Governor
and the Gentemen of the
Superiour Council of Pondicherry.

Gentlemen

I have receiv'd the Letter you did me the honour to write me Yesterday in Answer to mine of July the 22d O: S. as you seem Gentlemen to content yourselves with recrimination only and chargeing us in general with the very Conduct which we have complain'd of in You, We shall not again enter into a Detail which You seem (and we think with reason) to decline but shall chearfully submit our Behaviour to the Censure of our and your Superiours in Europe, by whose Equity we doubt not to be justify'd for the sincere and scrupulous attachment we have ever shewn to the Solemn Treaties subsisting between the two Crowns and by the same Equity we doubt not but every step of a contrary Nature will meet with its merited punishment.

However though We will not now engage in any further Discussion of the points in Debate between Us, yet there is one accusation in your last Letter which represents Us in so odious a Light that it is highly necessary for Us to confute it. You affirm that the proposals made to Us in Your's of August the 1st. N: S: are conformable to those made to You by Us in ours of the 6th July if this were true I will confess, that after refusing your proposals we could not pretend to any Zeal for the Settlement of this Country. Indeed we think these proposals Different However to Convince You that We have no other Views in our present Behaviour than to see Peace and Tranquillity once more restor'd in this unhappy Province if you really intend and believe the proposal made by you to be equivalent to that made by Us there can be no obstacle to an immediate Agreement, Since the Terms we proposed and which we have repeated at the foot of this Letter we are still willing to comply with. If you shall not think proper to acquiesce in this Offer You must confess that your Terms are not conformable to ours and consequently our Superiours cannot be in doubt which of Us are most sincere for the preservation of the peace of this Country or which of Us are the best practis'd in charging their own Faults on their Adversaries. I am with Respect Gentlemen Your most Obedt humble Servt Stringer Lawrence.

Fort St David
24 July 1750.

Copy of a proposal to Mr Dupleix and the Council of
Pondicherry the 6 July 1750 O : S :

If you will quit the Interest of Chunda Saib and recall Your Troops we shall do the same by Annawardee Cawn and leave the Country to be settled by the lawful Prince who has the only right of doing it.

S. L.

No. 27.

Pondicherry the 5th August 1750.

Ms. Lawrence Governour
of Fort St. David

Sir

We are to answer the Letter you did Us the honour to write Us the 24th of July O: S: We shall always say with the whole Indies, that it is not the Tranquillity of this Province that you have in View since you have experienc'd that every time you have been pleas'd to concern yourselves in our Differences with the Government the Troubles have only encreas'd and that it seems to be your Design to continue them.

Give Us leave to lay before you for a Moment the Conduct you have observ'd for some time past. On the Arrival of one of your Ships from Europe about the 16th [or] 17th of last Month, you sent Mr Cope Orders to return with his Troops which he did. After going backwards and forwards for some time, Mahomed Ally Cawn surpriz'd at this Retreat follow'd him and encamp'd about your Limits. His Emissaries and himself came to meet You several times, frequent Conferences were held and in the End the Result was a fresh Sally of your Forces, one of the Conditions of the Treaty was as they say, the possession of Tervedy Panerouty and their Dependencies, we know not the rest the first is sufficient to prove that the Tranquillity only of this province is not your Guide and it can no longer be a doubt since you had it told to several Reddys of these two places who had taken Refuge at Trepopilore that Mahomed Ally Cawn had made over those Countries to you; to which these poor fellows answer'd that they should be always obedient to the Orders of such as were set over them. See there then one of the Motives of your third taking up of Arms against Us and not that of the Tranquillity of this Province. You were not ignorant all this while that we took possession of these Countrys about a Month and a half ago, that we had a Garrison at Trivedy the principal place and that the King's Flag was hoisted there. Mahomed Ally Cawn should have taken down this Flag and carried the Fort where it was hoisted before he could make them over to You. His Forces as you rightly Judg'd were not sufficient and you thought it proper to join him with your Troops some Cannon of 24 & 18 pounders and other Artillery more than was necessary to take such a little paltry place. Your Eagerness to be in possession prevented your making the just Reflections that a Breach of this importance requir'd. Your accepting of this Gift is by no means reconcileable to the Treaties which are in force between the two Crowns to which you are pleas'd to assure us you have a sincere and strict Attachment, it is clear that neither these Treaties nor the Tranquillity of this Province have been your Guides in the Conduct you have observ'd heretofore. It may be added that Jealousie and perhaps Enmity have as great a Share there as all the Rest, insufficient Motives for subjects of so little Authority as You and Us to dare offer the least Infringement to Treaties for which we certainly ought reciprocally to have the most scrupulous Respect. How is it possible we can recriminate upon You? Have we been to attack you in your posessions [*sic*]? Has there been a Straw touch'd in your Territories? Did we concern ourselves in your Quarrels with the King of Tanjour? A Recrimination cannot take place on our part till we are found offending against you and against these Treaties. Produce one Instance and we will acknowledge that all that we reproach you with is false or ill founded. We can only shew you the precautions on our part taken not to fall into the same Faults as You. See here the Orders that Mr De la Touche Receiv'd as soon as the Commander General knew that he was near the Territories of Trivendupuram where you have hoisted your Flag. "You cannot take too much Care "that no Damage is done on our part in the Villages where you shall see the "English Flag and you will give Orders also that Mahomed Alli Cawn's Troops "be not attack'd or persued there you know Sir the Respect that is reciprocally "due to our Flags."

In an other Letter it is said "But you must have Attention that you are near "the Villages of Trevendupuram which belong to the English You must prevent "your people black & White from approaching these Villages Where the English "have taken Care to put up their Colours. This is a very important Care that you "should have, Again you must not pass the River of Penniar to go to the Enemy "where he now is. He being at present under the protection of the English."

See there Sir the proofs of our sincere and strict Attention to these solemn Treaties whilst we can only reproach you with the continual Infringements that you are every Day giving them by shewing a too notorious Contempt for all the places where our Colours are planted.

Our proposal of the 1st of August corresponded with yours of the 6th: of July O : S : and at Bottom was even more plain since we do not tack any other Conditions to it than that which appears in it, and the Tranquillity of this Province was

a necessary Consequence. Yours proposes Conditions which have no regard to the present footing which Nazir Jung has thought proper to put Affairs upon. He far from treating us as auxiliary Troops as You would always insinuate has dealt with Us as a declar'd Enemy and given Us a Right to do the same by him Things were push'd to Extremities on his part. Our Patience for near three Months could not make the least Impression upon him he forc'd us to act therefore tho' we quit the Interest of Chunda Saib and you that of Aneverdy Cawn who is dead we shall not be the less at War with him 'till our Grievances are all redress'd. He has put us in the Right in spite of You to be a principal Party, and it is in this Quality we shall Act 'till he shall please to have more pacifick Inclinations, it was to encourage them that we made the proposals contain'd in our Letter of the 1st August. We are with Respect Sir Your most Obedt humble Servts DUPLEIX—DE ST PAUL—FRIELL.

No. 28.

To Mr DUPLEIX GOVERNOUR
AND THE GENTLEMEN OF THE
SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF PONDICHERRY.

Gentlemen

The Letter I did myself the honour to write you Yesterday and which you were then pleas'd to answer, was, as you may remember principally intended to obviate your Accusation of our refusing the very Terms we ourselves had first propos'd. This Accusation you must now Gentlemen Confess to be groundless and only intended to render us odious to such as were but imperfectly inform'd of the Disputes between Us and we now think ourselves authorised to suspect that the Terms offer'd by you are not ambiguous by Accident only but are purposely fram'd in a doubtful Sense that they may not receive their full Interpretations 'till what you shall call a proper time.

We therefore in our own Defence again observe

That in your Letter of August the 1st N: S: you have propos'd certain Terms to Us which you say are intended to restore the Tranquillity of this Country.

That on our observing those Terms of your's to be ambiguous you in your next affirm, that they are consonant to what we ourselves had first propos'd to you in Ours of July the 6th O: S:

That We then declaring to you that we were ready to acquiesce in that proposal of Ours the 6th July you have in your last. Letter given Us your Reasons against its Conformity with yours and have therefore refus'd it.

Can you Gentlemen after this deny either that your proposal was ambiguous and intended to mislead Us or that your assertion of its being consonant to what we had made was groundless and hazarded only to injure Us in the Opinion of the World? Or that the Zeal which you sometimes express for the restoring the Tranquillity of this province is only a pretext for pushing other Views, which however have not been so secretly conducted but we are fully appriz'd of their Purport, how far our respective Masters in Europe will approve of them we must leave to time to determine.

This Conduct of yours Gentlemen will furnish every impartial Person with the means of interpreting the Whole of your Behaviour and will be itself a sufficient Confutation of the other Calumnies wth which you have endeavour'd to load Us, particularly your Charge of our having procur'd, a Grant of the District of Trevady and Panerouty, A Charge which I affirm to be in every Circumstance void of all Foundation. Indeed we shall hereafter in a proper place produce still more irrefragable proofs both of our sincere Attachment to the Quiet and Repose of this Country and our religious Regard to the Treaties subsisting between the two Crowns, and of the little Reverence shewn to these sacred Concerns, by others whose Duty it was to have been as Zealous herein as Ourselves. Believe me

Gentlemen We are neither so short sighted nor so slightly inform'd as you by many of the Insinuations contain'd in the preceeding part of your last Letter, seem to suppose.

However, though after a Conduct so Inviduous [*sic*] to our Characters, We might be well suppos'd to entertain no small Share of Resentment, yet still to convince You, that We are actuated by no other Motive than that of seeing this distracted province in Quiet; If you will add to the Proposal made by You in your's of August the 1st N. S. an Engagement on your Side, that from the time of the Agreement Chunda Saib shall commit no Hostilities neither by himself nor by others We will then Bona Fide engage Mahomud Ally Cawn to acquiesce and will for ourselves agree to withdraw our Troops when you withdraw Yours &c[a] according to the other Terms of your proposal. And Gentlemen whatever we engage for we will faithfully and honestly Comply with, We esteeming the inviolable Observance of our Words to be a more estimable Quality than the greatest Expertness in the Frauds and Falsehoods which are usually stiled Policy. I am with Respect Gentlemen Your most Obed[t] hum[e] Servant STRINGER LAWRENCE.

Fort St David
26 July 1750.

No. 29.

To M[r] DUPLEIX GOVERNOR
AND THE GENTLEMEN OF THE
SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF PONDICHERRY.

Gentlemen

After the many Declarations you have made of your great desire to see the Tranquillity of this Country restor'd it is matter of great Astonishment that you should treat with so affected a Scorn the last proposal we had the honour to make to You it being now four Days since you receiv'd it without deigning to take the least Notice of it. This is the more wonderful as you must confess this proposal is no ways different from your own unless you chuse to allow that the reserv'd Meaning of Yours was very different from the obvious Sense in which you expected we should understand it. However in either Case We conceive there can now be no longer a Doubt Who are most sincerely attach'd to the Repose of this Province or who conform with the most reverence to the sacred Treaties subsisting between the two Nations. Certainly so ostentatious a Contempt of the Commands of our Respective Masters and so violent a passion for regulating the whole Affairs of this part of the World according to the Dictates of your own Will has scarcely ever appear'd in persons so far remov'd as you are from Sovereign Authority indeed after the Insult on our Troops on the 20th Instant all what has since happen'd was easy to be foreseen, for in pursuance of so outragious and unexpected an Attack upon the British Colours (which must have been done by your Orders as you have refus'd to give us any Satisfaction thereon) It was not to be doubted but you were fully resolv'd to persue the same lawless Conduct to the Utmost. Of this we have since had a more glaring Instance with the Addition of Circumstances that render it still more Criminal. For we learn by the Letter of our Commanding Officer, that in the Night between the 28th & 29th Instant your Troops endeavour'd to surprize a party of our Men, Who were posted at a considerable distance from Mahomed Ally Cawn's Camp and therfore could not possibly be mistaken for his people. Upon this Occasion Gentlemen, we should be wanting in our Duty if we did not Protest (as we hereby do) against all who either by Act or Orders have been concern'd in this Violence and we demand from you Satisfaction for the Insult, and Justice upon the Offenders and in Case of Refusal we protest that you Gentlemen are answerable for all the Mischiefs which so mark'd a Disregard for the Treaties subsisting between the two Crowns may produce either here or elsewhere by Land, or by Sea. We have this Consolation to support Us that there are Sovereigns in Europe, to whose just Decisions both

your and our Conduct must at last be submitted and we flatter ourselves that a proper attention on your side to this Consideration would immediately put a Stop to the Troubles of this Country and would procure Us the Satisfaction and Redress to which we have so indisputable a Right. We are with Respect Gentlemen, Your most Obed^{t}: hum^{e}: Serv^{ts}: STRINGER LAWRENCE—RICH'D STARKE—HENRY POWNEY.

Fort St: David
30 July 1750.

No. 30.

M^{R} LAWRENCE GOVERNOUR
AND THE GENTLEMEN OF
COUNCIL AT FORT S^{T} DAVID

Pondicherry the 11th. August 1750.

Gentlemen

We are to answer the Letter you did Us the Honour to write Us the 30th July O: S: You complain that we have not answer'd Major Lawrence's Letter of the 26 July O: S: and you atribute this to an affected Contempt on our part; Till now we never gave you room to Charge Us with this Way of thinking, though Major Lawrence himself and M^{r} Floyer with the Gent of Council, set us the Example in not answering our Letter of the 21st July and that of our Commander General of the 28th of the same Month; You had Your Reasons for not replying to them and we never imputed this want of an Answer to any slight on your Part; Ours for not answering your Letter of the 26th July are comprehended in all our former Ones and We were willing to avoid useless Repetitions, which would never be at an End we entreat you to give these Letters a fresh Reading. They will reherse [*sic*] our Sentiments which we persist in.

We shall just add a few Reflections to all those we have already had the honour to make on your Conduct towards Us. Give Us leave to ask you in what Quality you make Us proposals to which you add just as you please new Conditions. Is it in Quality of Friend? Certainly your Conduct belies this Title totally. Is it in Quality of Enemy? The Treaties of Peace alliance &c^{a}. which subsist between our Sovereigns forbid your being so. Perhaps You have thought that your pretended Alliance with our Enemy destroyed and annihilated the former and that the Friendship of Mahomet Ally Cawn should take place without the least Policy or Caution on your part of that of a Monarch such as Ours. We leave it to our respective Sovereigns to make you sensible of the Error of this preference which we may treat improperly.

Is it in Quality of Mediators? We heartily Wish that you had put yourselves upon a Footing to be so, but your frequent Declarations of Allies Auxiliaries your Acts of Hostility upon Us and our Territories where you still actually are have put you in Circumstances not to be able to be so. We shall add to these three Reflexions, that we have no Concerns with you. That you have no Right to make Us proposals, and That we absolutely cannot admit You as Mediators. We have sent you some Pieces which we Beg of you to peruse. You may entertain what Judgement you think proper, they will prove at least that the Acts of Hostility on your part did precede the sort of Declaration of War that you are pleas'd to make Us, as well by Sea as Land, Expressions which will appear very heedless and to agree but little with the Respect that you say you have for the Treaties which subsist between our Sovereigns the Letter of M^{r} De Bussy Commander of the Detachment in the Night between the 28th and 29th July O: S: may furnish You with some Light into that of your Commanding Officer. The Paragraph of our Letter of the 21st July last which begins thus "But when yours are join'd with those of our Enemy &ca" is a perfect Answer to the pretended Complaint that you are pleas'd to bring against us. Put yourselves Gentlemen in Circumstances not to make them. The Treaties prescribe Rules for your Conduct.

Is it our Fault that you will not submit to them & that your People are found where they shou'd not be. You say with Reason that we have Sovereigns to be our Judges. Tis they that will without partiality decide between your Conduct and Ours. We shall prove to them that the Tranquillity of this Province has not been the Basis of your Proceedings and that all that you have wrote on this Subject as well as what M^r^ Cope says in his Letter to M^r^ De la Touche of the 20^th^ July O : S : is only a Veil which you have been pleas'd to throw over your different takings up of Arms against us, A Veil which was thrown off when you rejected our Proposal of the 1^st^ of this Month a proposal which we made only in Consequence of M^r^ Cope's Letter which with Reason we have great room to doubt of the Truth of. You have been pleas'd to make it appear to the whole Earth that we were not mistaken which Satisfies Us at present and is all that we wanted to prove.

We know not how to answer the last Lines of your Letter. They surprize Us beyond measure. What Reparation do we owe You ? & in what have we offended You ? You assist our Enemy with Men and Ammunition of all Sorts, you concern yourselves in Affairs which respect you not. You insult us every where. Hardly will you be able to elude all this. Your Declamations can never get the better of Facts that are clear as the Sun, And was nothing wanting but great Words to impose upon the blind Publick, we should be able to find them as well as You. But we are contented with laying down Facts and with telling you in the plainest Terms that as long as you are pleas'd to intermeddle in our Affairs, the Troubles will only encrease. You may espouse on this Subject which Party you have a mind and prefer if you please the Alliance of Mahomed Ally Cawn to that of the greatest King in Europe. We are with Respect Gent Your most Obed^t^ hum^e^: Servants DUPLEIX—DE ST PAUL—BARTHELEMY—FRIELL

The 7^th^ of August one thousand seven hundred and fifty.

A Deposition made by John Smith Soldier in Cope's Company and deserted from the English Camp to the French under Tervedy, before me James Friell Councellour of India Commissary for this purpose which Deposition was made to me in the English Language which I understand and which I interpreted to the Register of the Superior Council in manner following :—

Quere.—Whether M^r^ Law had ask'd him any Questions the 6^th^ : Instant, the Day of his Desertion.

Answer.—That he had question'd him upon different points which he does not positively remember but that he shall tell the Truth in all that is enquir'd of him upon which we proceeded in the following manner to put the same Questions to him after he had taken an Oath to declare the Truth.

Q.—Why he deserted from the English Detachment in Mahomed Ally Cawn's Camp under Tervedy. Who was commanding Officer there, and if he knows that the Peace is broken between France and England.

A.—That he deserted from a Desire to serve the French that Capt Cope was Commander of the English and of the Coffrees and Seapoys in their Service and that he does not know that war is declar'd between the two Nations.

Q.—If we are not at War upon what Footing do the English look upon themselves in the Enemy's Camp and why are they upon the Territories of the French with our Enemy.

A.—That he has heard among the Troops that the English Flag had been hoisted at Tervedy before the French and that, that Place belong'd to them.

Q.—Why the English sent their Seapoys and Coffrees to the Assistance of Mahomed Ally Cawn's People the 29^th^ of July during the Skirmish that then was between his Men and Ours and if there were no Europeans there.

A.—That whilst the French were engag'd with Mahomed Ally Cawn's Troops M^r^ Cope sent all the Seapoys and Coffrees under the Command of an English Officer nam'd Tressaly, of a Serjeant and two English Corporals to go and

assist the Moors and that they carried back Prisoner one of our Soldiers a Portugueze by Nation, and that there were no more Europeans among them.

Q: Whether he was in Camp the first of this Month, if he saw their Peons mix'd with Mahomed Ally Cawn's People come against the French if the English did not intervene with their Cannon and by sending Europeans in Disguise.

A: That as soon as the Moors began to Charge the French M Cope told Mahomed Ally Cawn to order two of his Cannon to advance and that that would draw the French Fire upon the Body of English Troops which was posted behind the Moors. That the French Balls flying over the Moors having fallen among the English Detachment M^{r} Cope made them advance towards the Tope where the French were, as far as the Bank of a Gutter, from whence he fir'd twenty Six Rounds of his Six Field Pieces and that he knows not exactly how many were fir'd from the 24 Pounders which were behind them. That their Coffrees and Seapoys were making their Attack in a Tope a good way from thence supported by the Moors Horse. That there were no Europeans in Disguise among the Moors.

Having read this Deposition over to him as interpreted by the said M^{r} Friell, he says it contains the Truth and has sign'd it.

JOHN SMITH FRIELL & J PANON REGISTER.

Copy of the Original lodg'd in my Hands in the Office of the Secretary to the Superiour Council of Pondicherry the 11th August 1750.

A. Boyelleau.

The 7th of August one thousand Seven hundred and fifty.

A Deposition made by Arthur Ross Soldier in Cope's Company and deserted from the English Camp to the French under Tervedy, before me James Friell Councellor of India, Commissary for this purpose which Deposition was made to me in the English Language which I understand and which I interpreted to the Register of the Superior Council in manner following, after the said Arthur Ross had taken an Oath to tell the Truth.

Quere.—Whether M^{r} Law had ask'd him any Questions the 6th of this Month.

Answer'd.—That he had told the Truth to M$^{r.}$ Law and is ready to confirm it by Oath.

Upon which we proceeded in the following man [*sic*] to put the same Questions to him as M$^{r.}$ Law did.

Q. Why he deserted from the English Detachment in Mahomed Ally Cawn's Camp under Tervedy who is Commanding Officer and if he knows that the peace is broken between France and England.

A.—That he had a long time had a desire to serve the French having heard that Soldiers were well treated among them, that M^{r} Cope is Commander of the English Detachment and that he knows very well that the Peace subsists between the two Nations.

Q.—If we are not at War upon what footing do the English look upon themselves in the Enemies Camp & why are they upon the Territories of the French with our Enemy.

A. That they were there to support the Moors against Us, that the Nabob pays M$^{r.}$ Cope a Rupee a day for Batta or Subsistence to every Man of his Detachment, but that M$^{r.}$ Cope gives them no more than the Company's Allowance, that he had heard that the English Flag had been hoisted at Tervedy and English peons plac'd there before the French that he was not certain whether the French took that place or Chunda Saeb gave it them.

Q.—Why the English sent their Seapoys & Coffrees to the Assistance of Mahomed Ally Cawn's people the 29th of July during the Skirmish that then was between his Men and Ours and whether there were not some Europeans there.

A. That it was by Mr Cope's Order that these people march'd that the whole English Troops were under Arms that Night and advance'd a little that he knows no further because he was upon the grand Guard that Day.

Q.—Whether he was in the Camp the first of this Month: if he saw their Peons mix'd with Mahomed Ally Cawn's people come against the French if the English did not intervene with their Cannon and by sending Europeans in Disguise.

A. That it was Mr. Cope that engaged Mahomed Ally Cawn to Charge that he sent all his Seapoys & Coffrees another way with the Moors that he told Mahomed Ally Cawn to advance and he would follow him close and that if any of the French Balls fell among his people it was all he wanted to make him fire upon them, that having had an Ensign wounded he made the whole Body advance as far as a Gutter where he made them lay upon their Bellies on the Ground and ply'd his six field Pieces which threw about eighteen Rounds that the 24 Pounders were fire'd a long time with Grape that the Coffrees were commanded by an Englishman who was before Serjeant Major whose Name he knows not and the Seapoys by two Serjeants but that there were no Englishmen in Disguise among the Moors.

Having read this Deposition over to him as interpreted by the said Mr Friell, he says it contains the Truth and has sign'd it.

(Sign'd) Arthur Ross Friell & J Panon Register.

Copy of the Original lodg'd in my Hands in the Office of the Secretary to the Superior Council of Pondicherry the 11th Augst: 1750. A. Boyelleau.

Camp the 9th Augst 1750.

Mr Dupleix

Sir

A Desire to perform something still better than the last time made me solicit Mr. La Touche for another Enterprize upon the Enemies Camp which I executed last Night with the same Detachment & same Officers. my Guide told me that not to enter at the same place we did last Sally (which was then well Guarded) it was necessary to go round at least three Leagues for this purpose we set out about ten o Clock and arriv'd at one, at the Enemy's Camp which we found as well guarded as could be, a great number of Fireworks wch: gave Light a great Way oblig'd me to look out for some other place where the Enemy was less upon their Guard and whilst I was deliberating with Puymorin on the party I was Inclin'd to take of entering by full Force into the Enemy's Camp we receiv'd a furious Discharge of Musquetry of [*Lacuna in the original*] and two Cannon Shot I then order'd Mr De Caix to draw up the troops in a Column I made a half face to the Right and after having given some Discharges we retir'd.

(Sign'd) Bussy.

Copy of the original Letter from Mr Bussy to Mr Dupleix lodg'd in my hands in the office of the Secretary to the Superior Council of Pondicherry the 11th Augst 1750.

A. Boyelleau.

Extract of a Letter from M Le Noir Chief at Yanam to Mr Dupleix dated 11th July 1750.

If I could write you more at length I would give you a detail of all that has pass'd to this Day but shall content myself with telling you at this time Sir that the Nabob assisted by some English Soldiers made an Attack upon us, that the Engagement lasted from ten or Eleven o Clock in the Morning to six at Night without their Cannon doing us the least Damage though they had 20 Pieces for the most part of greater force than Ours. The Nabob having thrown down our Flag Staff after the Engagement we by way of reprizal burnt Gotindivy [*sic*] and the vessels that were there in the face of the Army who assembled to see the Fire & in spite of all they could do to oppose it embarqued on the English Sloops.

Extract of the Original lodg'd in my Hands in the Office of the Secretary of the Superior Council at Pondicherry 11th August 1750.

A. Boyelleau.

No. 31.

To Mr Dupleix Governour
and the Gentlemen of the Superior
Council of Pondicherry.

Gentlemen

We have rec'd yours of August the 11 N: S: which you have done Us the honour to write Us. We are extreamly surpriz'd to find that when we only desir'd You to declare that you intended your proposal to Us should be understood in the sense it naturally Convey'd instead of complying with so reasonable a Request you tell Us you have nothing to settle with us (rien a demêler avec vous) and that we had no right to make you Propositions, We did not conceive Gentlemen 'till now that you only had a Right to make Propositions, or that our Endeavours to be treated with Fairness and Integrity, would with You prove so great an Offence as to put a stop to all farther Transactions between Us; Indeed we desire no juster Decision of our Respective Views than what naturally arises from a Comparison from your and our Behaviour on this Proposal. You are pleas'd to accuse us of prefering the Friendship of Momet Ally Cawn to that of his most Christian Majesty. It is with Reverence we repeat an Assertion you have too lightly advanc'd, for we are not so short sighted as to take Pondicherry for Versailles, But we assure you We have so just a Sense of his Majesty's Equity (acknowledged by all Mankind) That we doubt not but our Sincerity and cautious Behavior will be approv'd of by him whilst both the open Violence and politick Ambiguity of which we complain will meet with its just Censure.

You have been pleas'd to accompany your Letter with four other pieces which are to Us matter of Astonishment; It is indeed wonderful that you shou'd think the Depositions of Deserters, two of which you have sent us worth so serious a Recital if these are your most authentick Defences against our Complaints (and surely you would not otherwise have made so pompous a use of them) We doubt whether you will venture to produce them in Europe where the Oath of a Deserter would appear too ludicrous a Circumstance to have any weight in these serious Affairs; Were we disposed to deal in such Evidence we could furnish ample Reprizals of this kind but we should esteem ourselves blameable even to repeat the Tales of the falsest and most vicious part of Mankind the first Step of whose Undertaking is perjury, We therefore content ourselves with assuring you Gentlemen that the Depositions you have transmitted Us, abound with the grosest [*sic*] Falsehoods, not to mention (what we wonder You should overlook) their contradicting each other.

With Regard to the Letter of Mr Bussy (the third piece sent Us) We observe that the Attempt to surprise our Men in the Night between the 28 & 29th of July O: S: is now put upon an Endeavour of your Troops to find a part less guarded than where they first intended their Attack. This Gentlemen is one of the Subjects on wch we have already Protested and which must be left to the Determination of our Superiors in Europe whose Decisions we conscious of our just Intentions, shall expect with great impatience.

And now Gentlemen what shall we say to your fourth Piece the Letter of Mr Le Noir accusing Us of assisting the Moors against you at Yanam both with Men and Cannon, If you have really no better Information than the Letter of Mr Le Noir, we beg leave to assure You that the Fact is altogether different from that Gents Representation, For at the time when the Factory was retaken by your Troops we had no more than two Europeans in or near the Place, and those were so far from inclining to Assist the Moors, that they Bona fide refus'd to part with three small pieces of Cannon, which however they could not prevent being forc'd from them and this with so little Appearance of Collusion, That our principal there was extreamly ill us'd and still more severely threathen'd by the Moors, on a Suspicion of his favoring the French and secreting their Effects This

we affirm to be the true state of that Business. We are with Respect Gentlemen Your most obedient humᵉ Servants STRINGER LAWRENCE—RICH'D STARKE—HENRY POWNEY.

Fort Stᵗ. David
2ᵈ Augˢᵗ 1750.

No. 32.

A Pondicherry the 14ᵗʰ Augˢᵗ 1750.

Mᴿ LAWRENCE GOVERNOUR AND THE GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL AT FORT ST DAVID.

Gentlemen

We have receiv'd the Letter you did Us the honour to write us the 2ᵈ. Instant O: S: We shall add it to all the rest that we have received from you and transmit them to Europe by the first Opportunity We shall only tell you that we never knew Mʳ Le Noir capable of advancing an Imposture of this Nature, The Affair in Question is not the same you are pleas'd to call to mind it is another which happen'd twenty Days after and which occasion'd the total ruin of our Factory. Nobody is unacquainted that Vizagapatam, where you have some Troops is not far distant from your Factory of Ingeram which is near ours of Yanam. We are with Respect Gentlemen Your most Oᵗ Hᵉ Servants DUPLIEX—BARTHELEMY—DE ST. PAUL—FRIELL.

No. 33.

To Mᴿ DUPLEIX GOVERNOUR AND THE GENTLEMEN OF THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF PONDICHERRY.

Gentlemen

We have receiv'd the Letter you have honour'd Us with of the 14 Instant N. S. wherein you are pleas'd to inform Us that the Action at Yanam referr'd to by us in ours of the 2ᵈ. Instant was prior by twenty Days to that related in Mʳ Le Noir's Letter. To this we reply that we fairly represented to you all the Account we had then receiv'd, from our Agent at Ingeram and Mʳ Le Noir's Letter not being over distinct nor containing the date of the Action, and being written besides with An air of Success, the Mistake (if it was one) was not easy to be avoided however this Morning We have receiv'd a Letter from our Agent at Ingeram, dated 15ᵗʰ July which must be long after the time fix'd by you for Mʳ Le Noir's Transaction, By this Letter an Extract of which we transmit herewith you will farther see how little Ground Mʳ Le Noir has for charging Us with Assisting the Moors in those parts against You. As we have given Mʳ Goodere no Orders to interfere in the Least in your Affairs and cannot conceive any reasons he can have for imposing on Us we must rely on his Information, and therefore must again suppose that the Charge brought against us in Mʳ Le Noir's Letter is entirely without Foundation. We are with Respect Gentlemen Your most obedᵗ : humᵉ : Servants

Fort St David
4ᵗʰ August 1750.

Extract of a General Letter from Mʳ Robᵗ: Goodere Residᵗ at Ingeram Dated the 15ᵗʰ July 1750 To the Hoñble the President and Council of Fort St. David.

Since my last under Date the 10ᵗʰ June Our Nabob with a powerful Army came into these parts the French left their Factory on his Approach wᶜʰ : and their Town he has burnt two or three times over His presents [*sic*] created me inexpressible trouble and has put the Hoñble Company to about 150 Pagodas additional

Expence in Batta and presents for the Day after his Arrival here, He sent Horsemen to my Factory demanded the Merchants and made me sign a Note that I had not secreted any of those belonging to the French which I the more readily did in hopes it would have put an end to farther Troubles but he still persisting in the Delivery of them I was oblig'd to Comply and as soon as he had got them threathen'd to wip them wanted to extort Money from them and kept them prisonners fourteen Days under pretext They were French as well as English Merchants, I wrote him three Letters in their Behalf and twice gain'd audience but he seem'd deaf to any thing I advanc'd in their favour till just he was going to leave the place when he sent for me deliver'd up my Merchants gave me great assurances of his Friendship and that he would promote the hon^{ble} Company's Affairs to the utmost of his Power.

A true Extract of the Original attested by me C. B. Sy.

No. 34.

M^{R}. Lawrence Governour

Pondicherry 16th: Augst: 1750.

& the Gentlemen of Council

Gentlemen

We have receiv'd the Letter you did us the honour to write Us the 4th Instant N: S: with an Extract of one from your Chief at Ingeram dated 15th. July last. Altho' this Extract disproves nothing of what M^{r} Le Noir has Advanc'd we shall nevertheless transmit it to Bengal whither he has retir'd, and demand an Explanation on this Subject as well as of what he has advanced in his. We shall be careful to communicate his answers to you and to forward them also to Europe. It were much to be wish'd that you had observ'd here the same Orders that you assure us you gave to your Chief at Ingeram but your Proceedings here and your Troops always in the Field, your Consultations and Insinuations and the assurances the Nabob has given to your Chief at Ingeram give room to doubt of the reality of your Orders and prove that the same Spirit which guides you here is equal every where else, and that in peace as well as War you will not cease to do us all the Damage in your Power, to whatever Risques you expose yourself by affecting as you do to despise and Annihilate the most solemn Treaties. We are with Respect Gentlemen Your most Obed^{t}: hum^{e}: Servants Dupleix—De St Paul—Barthelemy—Friell.

No. 35.

To M^{R} Dupleix Gov^{R} & the Gentñ.

of the Superior Council of Pondicherry

Gentlemen

We have receiv'd the Letter you did us the hon^{r} To write us of the 16 Inst: wherein we find that you again accuse Us of being the Authors of the Commotions in this Country and tho' we have already amply confuted this Imputation yet as you have thought proper to renew your Charge we must beg leave to remind you of some particulars w^{ch} have lately pass'd between Us which will fully justifie us wth every impartial Person. When you Gentlemen (with Views not necessary to be here explained) attack'd and kill'd Annaverdee Cawn and in the room of his Son Mahomet Ally Cawn endeavour'd to make your Dependent Chunda Saib Nabob you are not ignorant what Injuries our Commerce receiv'd under this pretence by the burning of the Villages where our Manufactures were carrying on dispersing the Artificers and ruining the Country, so that it appear'd as if Chunda Saib's principal Employment was to be the destroying our Interest upon this Coast in this Emergency we cou'd not avoid assisting Mahomet Ally Cawn against a person who seem'd to be solely design'd to distress our Affairs and who endeavour'd to

involve us during a peace in all the Embarassments of a War. But to convince the World that the part we acted upon this occasion was only with a View of restoring the Country to quiet we proposed to you that there might be a Cessation of Arms between Mahomet Ali Cawn and Chunda Saib & that each party might remain in posession of what he had 'till a more perfect pacification could be agreed on. This you were pleas'd to reject but some time after you propos'd to us that Mahomet Ali Kan should retire to Arcott and that both you and we should return to our respective Settlements and this you told us was conformable to what we ourselves had offer'd, however as no mention was made by you of Chunda Saib we suspected that you had a part for him to act when Mahomet Ali Kan was retir'd & therefore we desir'd you to declare that the Cessasion should bind him as well as Mahomet Ali Kan. Your answer to this fully confirm'd our Suspicions for you treated Us with an uncommon Air of Superiority and seem'd to consider it as little less than Insolence in us not to submit blindly to whatever Illusions you thought proper to frame for Us.

From all this let the World judge which of us is most zealously dispos'd for restoring the Tranquillity of this Country had your Views been as sincere as ours You could not nor would not have refused either our first proposal or the Equitable Interpretation we desir'd of yours. Nor could you expect that we should have prevail'd on Mahomet Ali Kan to retire and leave the whole Country to the Discretion of Chunda Saeb whom you will not permit to be bound by the pacification that you may always have the means of distressing the province & destroying our Trade under the fictitious authority of his Name. Whenever we refuse to acquiesce in any reasonable Measures for restoring the Quiet of this Country we shall then justly deserve the Censures contain'd in your last. At present the disinterested part of Mankind will absolve Us and will think it no small agravation of your Conduct that you bestow on Others, those Censures to which you yourselves are so justly liable. We are with the greatest Respect Gentlemen Your most obed^{t}: hum^{e}: Servants STRINGER LAWRENCE—RICHARD STARKE—HENRY POWNEY.

Fort St David
7th August 1750

No. 36.

M^{r} LAWRENCE GOVERNOUR
& THE GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL
AT FORT ST. DAVID

Pondicherry the 19th August 1750.

Gentlemen

We have receiv'd the Letter You did Us the honour to write Us the 7th Ins^{t} O: S: Nothing is more easy than to lay down ones Ideas upon paper, but it often is not the least of Difficulties to prove the Truth It is notorius that in the Revolution of this province which happen'd last August there was not a single Straw burnt by the Armies of Muzerpher Jung & Chunda Saib. The Action pass'd near 50 Leagues from hence [it] was a decisive one and Muzerpher Jung without more ado was Master of this Province, at which time it was in his Option to give it to Chunda Saeb or any one else, so it is no ways agreable to good Sense that these Armies should make it their Business to burn Villages which were in the Bounds of their own Territories. The Trade was not at all interrupted in the places where Merchandizes were fabrick'd and if it was so at Worriarpollam it did not last above fifteen Days. The Roads were always open and we never heard say, or knew that a single Piece of your Goods were stopp'd. Your taking possession of St Thomé authoriz'd Muzerpher Jung and Chunda Saeb to make Reprisals on You, this they never did and we can say with a great deal of Confidence that we inspir'd them with quite different Sentiments. The Letters which Chunda Saib wrote to M^{r}. Floyer contain'd only Complaints at the same time that he assur'd that Governor of his Friendship by calling to mind that which the predecessors of his Family had had for the English Nation for more than Forty Years this Conduct was certainly very opposite to that which was then observ'd

with him, but from this Moment and even sooner your Negotiations with Mahomet Ally Cawn at Trechenopoly were begun and part of your Succours had been sent him. There had not yet been a Straw burnt in the Province and if the Workmen dispers'd no one is ignorant that it is their Custom at the approach of a Friends as much as of an Enemy's Army but after they are pass'd they come back immediately. It were much to be wish'd that Nauzir Jung's Army attended with the Destruction of human kind had had the same Tenderness for the Country. The Footsteps of his March, are to be seen for more than four hundred Leagues; where ever this Army has pass'd it looks as if Fire and Madness had follow'd it. You do, Gentlemen all that you can to give some sort of Colour to your several taking Up of Arms against Us, there are no Reasons but you have sought to produce, will they cast a Mist before the Eyes of Your Superours [*sic*] and Ours, and in your Letters even is it not easy to perceive that there is something more than you are willing to insinuate. The same Reasons on which you found your past and present Conduct might have serv'd Us when you was pleas'd to make War against the King of Tanjour where you had no Establishment and where we as well as the Dutch and Danes had. Your Army burnt the Villages dispers'd the Workmen and ruin'd the Country in such a manner as must make us think your principal End and that of Catiqué [*sic*] was to demolish our Interest in that Kingdom as well as the Danes and Dutch, still they and we thought we might Dispence with assisting the King that you had a mind to dethrone and that we could not act otherwise without running counter to the Cessation of Arms which had then been declar'd to Us, & they to the Treaties which Subsist between their Sovereigns and Yours. These same Reasons founded on less Truth have seem'd to you decisive and sufficient to annihilate in a Moment Treaties which you are pleas'd to talk of as sacred at the same time that you are violating them wth the utmost Contempt Your Conduct and Ours in a like Case will be examin'd by impartial people; We have Facts to produce you nothing but pretences. The Treaties have been the Rule of our Proceedings. These same Treaties cannot regulate yours tho' the Engagement is reciprocal and we do not find in them any Exception for You. We beg you to recollect that the time when you made us proposals was the 6th: of July last O: S: It should seem by the Stile of your Letter that they were prior to that Date. The Province was then ruin'd our Factory at Yanam destroy'd. This was too late, Gentlemen for you to think of this pretended Tranquility.

We do not pretend to agree or Dispute with Mahomed Ally Cawn; It is not with him that we are to treat. His Master is at Arcot and we wish that more pacifick Notions than have hitherto been breath'd into him would engage him to restore not only to this province but to many others that Peace which you so often seem to feel the necessity of but do not study to bring about.

Our former Letters are an Answer to the rest of yours, give us leave to refer you to them and to assure you that we are wth Respect Gentlemen Your most obed^{t}: hum^{e}: Serv^{ts}: Dupleix—Barthelemy—De St Paul—Friell.

No. 37.

To M^{r}. Dupleix Governour
and the Gentlemen of the
Superior Council of Pondicherry.

Gentlemen

We learn by Letters from the Havildar of Tervendaporam and by the Depositions of several who were present, that in the Night of the 6th: Instant, The Guard of our Flag in the Village of Mandagapet (depending on Tervendaporam) were pillag'd and some of them carried Prisoners to Pondicherry by a party of Yours who on this occasion took away whatever Money Arms or Cloaths they could lay their Hands on. But not' till they had first inform'd themselves that the Persons whom they thus seiz'd and robb'd belong'd to us and were posted there for the Security of our Flag. After the many other Hostilities of which we have

hitherto fruitlessly complain'd We do not expect that you, Gentlemen, who have so often denied Us justice should behave more equitably in the present glaring Infraction of the most solemn Treaties subsisting between our Respective Monarchs. However we should be wanting in our Duty if we did not demand (as we hereby do[)] that Reparation be immediately made for this Insult on our Flag; and that all concern'd therein receive exemplary Punishment for the same. Protesting too, That if you refuse Us this Satisfaction you only are answerable for all the Consequences of so unprovok'd and flagrant an Outrage and we cannot but recommend to you seriously to consider the fatal Consequences that may attend your thus indulging on every occasion the unbridled Violence of any one person among You. For when we reflect on the occasion of this present Protest, on the Barbarities lately committed on our People at Area Cottey [*sic*] under the pretended Authority of Chunda Saib, On your attack upon our Troops during their March, and your Endeavours afterwards to cutt them off in the Night when had you succeeded you imagin'd perhaps the proof of your Injustice might be difficult to be made out, When we reflect on these and a thousand other Instances of your Behavior since the restoring the peace between the two Crowns, We are almost tempted to Consider Pondicherry as the Seat of some Inde[pen]dant Power, acting on its own Views and resolving to regulate all the Affairs of this part of the World by the Dictates of its own Sovereign Will.

Thus far We had written, Gentlemen, [in] relation to your Transactions at Mandagapet when we receiv'd the Letter you did us the honour to write Us of the 19th Instant N: S: In this we observe that you accuse us of Colouring our Conduct with specious Pretences very different from our real Motives telling us that by a Reasoning resembling ours, you might have assisted the King of Tanjore against Us which yet you avoided to do. And insisting that we Urge nothing but pretexts whilst you in your Justification produce only Facts.

When you have perus'd the preceeding part of this Letter, we presume you will no longer accuse us of being defective in Facts. Indeed when You recollect your Behaviour in regard to the Proposal you last made Us, You will scarcely be persuaded that the impartial part of Mankind will consider us as your Equals in the Art of Colouring Disguising and disavowing the Motives by which we act. And as to your Conduct during our Dispute with the King of Tanjore, We could if it were necessary Convince you that we are better appriz'd of what pass'd on that Occasion than you seem to suppose.

And now, Gentlemen, to the principal Matter contain'd in our last Letter, that is the Proofs we have given of our readiness to concur in any equitable Measures for restoring the Tranquillity of this Country, and the various Artifices by which you have hitherto eluded our Endeavours. This Disposition of Ours which you have not attempted to disprove is of itself a full Answer to all the Imputations contain'd in the preceeding part of your Letter You except to our proposal of July the 6th. telling Us it was then too late the province being already ruin'd &ca But you forget that long after this You yourselves made a proposal to Us which you assur'd Us was conformable to Ours, 'though on our desiring an Explanation it hath appear'd to be extreamly different from ours nor do you deny that you intended it shou'd be different and fram'd it ambiguous on purpose to deceive Us.

The Sincerity of our Endeavours to see this Country once more at peace, and the different Disposition which you have always shewn do most distinctly evince the different Motives by which we are guided and will alone clear up to our Superiours any perplexities which Misrepresentations may give rise to, and though we have no reason to suppose that you should be more favourably dispos'd to the welfare of this Country than you have already been, yet we think it our Duty again to declare to you that we will acquiesce in any equitable Measures for terminating the present Troubles and will not permit either Hatred Envy or a Thirst of power, to divert us from a pursuit which both our Duty and our

Interest so strongly dictate to Us. We are with Respect Gentlemen Your most Obed^{t}: hum^{e}: Serv^{ts}.

Fort St David
9th Augst: 1750

No. 38.

M^{R} LAWRENCE GOVERNOR AND THE GENTN OF COUNCIL AT FORT ST DAVID.

Pondicherry the 21 Augst. 1750

Gentlemen

We have receiv'd the Letter you did Us the honour to write Us Yesterday We were surpriz'd to read in it the Fact you advanc'd and the Terms you made use of to express it. We shall be satisfied if you please with relating the Affair as it is and shall not repeat the terms you think proper to favour Us with from time to time. On the bare reading of your Letter there was room to think that our People had committed the greatest of Crimes. Your Menaces your Terms and Expressions leave nothing to look for on that head. There wants nothing but reality. On the Night you mention one of our Detachments coming back from the Army met in the Road two or three Men, one arm'd wth a Musquet another with a Sword. They were stopp'd and the Officer examin'd them, they answer'd that, they belong'd to M^{r} Cope's Detachment and were there to look after the Village. The Officer who took them for Spies and was afraid they might give Advice of his March to some Ambuscade thought proper to bring them in here and seize their Arms. They were brought before the Commander General in the Morning who after having examin'd them caus'd their Arms to be restor'd gave them five Rupees and had them conducted out of the Bounds, telling them that they should ask their Masters for some token to distinguish them from a number of Blacks who like them are in our Enemies Service and who may say they are in yours without being so in reality. Who would ever have thought that so genteel a proceeding could have been treated in such terms as you are pleas'd to make use of, what sort of Face will they bear before such as read with impartiality your Letters and Ours what will they not say of your manner of expressing yourself after they are inform'd that for more than a Month your Troops have been encamp'd upon our Territories have ravag'd our Villages in Conjunction with those of our Enemies: What will they not say when they know that your Troops on their return from Tanjour took possession of our Factory at Porto Novo, beat down the Walls burnt the Doors Windows and every thing Cumbustible about it, An Extravagance which our Commander General could never get a reason for from M^{r} Floyer, not so much as a polite Letter at the same time that he was giving all his Attention to the preservation of the Ship Edgebaston, What will these people not say when they see the Turns you strive to give to all you are pleas'd to advance to Colour your Conduct, what will they not say when they see you quoting every Moment the most Solemn Treaties, Treaties that you have so often violated and are still violating without troubling yourselves much about the Consequences, You alledge Facts and they are these very Facts that prove that you make no Account of these Treaties. For you will always be ask'd what are your Troops doing with those of our Enemy? Why do they stay upon our Territories? shall you be suffer'd to do us in all places all the Mischief possible, and are we the only people that are to be bound by these Treaties that you are citing every Moment It would be too great injustice if these Treaties did not bind you equally.

We do not pretend to make you Laws neither can we or ought we to submit to such as you are always wanting to impose on us under pretences which have no longer force than just as you think them proper to Cloak your Conduct. We wish only that you would confine yourselves to the Bounds that these Treaties prescribe they forbid us to have any Differences with you or to concern ourselves with your Affairs, We follow these Orders to the Letter, our Example cannot

move you, you sieze upon with unheard of Eagerness every idle Story, and do not perceive that in shewing them you condemn yourselves All the Facts that you have alledg'd now, admitting they were true are always posterior to the frequent taking up of Arms that you have thought proper to make against Us and are proofs of their reality. They have yet reach'd no other end than the prolonging the Misery of this part of India and the destruction of our Factory at Yanam. These Facts are true and cannot be veil'd and prove that you think yourselves in the Right to act against us as you see good & agreable to your Ideas.

We have already had the honour to tell you several times that we have no Justification to make of our Conduct towards you, so this Term which you make use of in regard to us is improperly plac'd for all we have wrote has never been with a design to justifie ourselves since we never have put ourselves into such Circumstances.

We earnestly beg of you to bring to Light what pass'd on our part during your War with the King of Tanjour we desire nothing else than to make publick our Conduct on that occasion, Our former Letters have answer'd and even anticipated the Substance of the other Articles of your Letter, give us leave to refer to them. We are with Respect Gentlemen Your most obed^{t}: hum^{e}: Serv^{ts}: Dupleix—De S^{t} Paul—Barthelemi—Friell.

No. 39.

To Mr. Dupleix Governor
and the Gentlemen of the Superior
Council of Pondicherry.

Gentlemen

We have receiv'd the Letter you did us the honour to write Us of the 21st Ins^{t} N: S: and we cannot but inform You that the Account sent us from Mandagapet of the seizing of our People by your Seapoys is entirely different from the Relation you are pleas'd to give Us of that Affair as you will observe by the enclos'd Paper.

But the seizing our People is not the only Complaint we have to make for we find that a Party of Yours passing Yesterday Morning through our Territory of Trevendaporum carried off eight Bullocks with their Loading, Amounting to a Considerable Value, On this Occasion (how useless soever our Representations may prove) we cannot but demand Reparation and Satisfaction for the Damages our People have suffer'd, nor can we avoid protesting as we hereby do against these repeated Violences committed on our Lands in Defiance of the Treaties subsisting between the two Crowns. We are wth Respect Gentlemen Your most obed^{t}: hum^{e}: Servants Stringer Lawrence—Richard Starke—Henry Powney.

Fort St. David
the 15 August 1750.

A Representation from the Overseer of the Village of Mandagapet of the Hostilities committed there by a Party belonging to the French.

On the 6th. Ins^{t}: in the Night three of our Seapoys who were kept as a Guard to our Flag which is hoisted on a Tree standing before a Pagoda situated in the Village of Mandagapet, being asleep in the Entry of the said Pagoda were surpriz'd by a Party of French Seapoys who immediately seiz'd upon them, and altho' they were made acquainted with the Intent of their being there Vitz [*sic*] To Guard our Flag, Their Commanding Officer who stood without and was told so likewise, Instead of paying any Regard for it sent more Assistance to those that had already seiz'd our People. This occasioning some Noise the Overseer of the Village and three other Peons who were wth him and asleep also, but within the Pagoda awakened, When one of the said Peons going to see what was the matter and finding them to be a Party belonging to the French, he immediately made his Escape as did also one of the Seapoys that had been seiz'd upon, in the Entry. The

Overseer & the other two Peons found means to hide themselves in some convenient place in the Pagoda, but in doing it very precipitately they left behind them their Arms and sundry other things which the French Seapoys thought proper to take with them; as likewise the two Seapoys, whom they carried Prisoners to Pondicherry after giving them much ill Treatment.

This I Attest to be a true Relation of the foregoing Affair, As interpreted to me by the Hoñble Company's Interpreter for the Malabar Language.

C. B. Secy.

No. 40.

To Mr Dupleix Governour
and the Gentlemen of the Superior
Council of Pondicherry.

Gentlemen

In our last We complain'd to you of the Seizure of Eight Bullocks and their Loading by a Party of Yours who carried them off from our own Lands, and we are now to tell You that these Violencies are still continued to the extream Prejudice both of ourselves and of the People who live under our Protection, for Yesterday in the Afternoon three of your Black Horsemen pursued some of the Country People not Soldiers, to the Edge of our Bounds and one of them rode in where he was taken prisoner. It is true he pretended that his Bitt breaking his Horse ran away with him, But this can only be understood of his coming into the Bounds and not of his maroding [*sic*] on the Skirts of them, for there it appears he came voluntarily and was attended by two others. This Horseman we shall keep in Custody till you inform us in what light we are to consider him, and in the mean time we must Protest as we hereby do against these Outrages; demanding Satisfaction for the same and insisting that all our Possessions both here and at Madras, and in the Ponamalee and Milapore Countries (where you are not ignorant our Flag has been hoisted a considerable Time in Consequence of Grants from Nazir Jing) be regarded by your Troops in the manner the Solemn Treaties subsisting between the two Nations dēmand. We are with Respect Gentlemen Your most Obedt: hume Servants Stringer Lawrence—Rich'd Starke—Henry Powney.

Fort St. David
17th August 1750.

No. 41.

Mr Lawrence Governour Pondicherry the 29th August 1750.
the Gent̃ of Council at Fort St. David.

Gentlemen

We should have sent an immediate Answer to the Letter you did us the honour to write us the 15th Inst. O. S. but knowing nothing of the Capture you mention'd it was necessary to be inform'd from Mr De la Touche from whom we have demanded an Explanation and we enclose you a Copy of his Answer. As to the other Affair we have had the honour to tell you what has come to our Knowledge which agrees in the principal Points with the Declaration that the Overseer of your Village has made you. Your People were sent back with their Arms and a Recompence.

The Instant we were going to dispatch this Letter we receiv'd yours of Yesterday. The Case of the Seapoy being as You say, we cannot but approve of your siezing him, & if you will please to send him to Us we will give him Exemplary Punishment.

When you inform'd Us, that your Flag is hoisted at Poonamaly and the other Places, you would have done us a pleasure to tell us, whether the Conduct that

you have observ'd and still do upon the Territories where ours is flying, is agreable to the Treaties you quote to us so often and whether this Conduct ought to be the Rule for Ours towards you and your Colours We make yourselves the Judges. We are with Respect Gentlemen Your most obed^{t}. Humble Servants DUPLEIX.—BARTHELEMY.—DE ST. PAUL.—FRIELL.

Copy of a Letter from M^{r} De la Touche Commander of the French Troops to Gov^{r}· Dupliex dated at the Camp near Trivedy the 28th Augst. 1750.

Sir

It is astonishing that the English make Complaints to you of our molesting Mahomed Ally Cawn's Convoys. They know that we are at War with him & Consequently that every thing we take is a lawful Prize. The Capture they have mention'd consists only in five or six Bullocks loaded with Rice which belong'd to Mahomed Ally Cawn. If any have a Right to complain it is you, Sir, that the English furnish our Enemies with Provissions, and I that they did again on the 26 Instant fire three Cannon Shot at our Dragoons that I had sent out to reconnoitre, I cannot think that our Superiors in Europe will approve of this Conduct I have the honour to be with Respect your most obed^{t}· hum^{e}· Servant.

Sign'd Le Provost De la Touche

A Copy conformable to the Original lodg'd in my Hands in the Office of the Secretary to the Superiour Council at Pondicherry the 29th August 1750.

A. BOYELLEAU.

No. 42.

To M^{R}· DUPLEIX GOVERNOUR
AND THE GENTLEMEN OF THE SUPERIOR
COUNCIL OF PONDICHERRY.

Gentlemen

We have the Letter you did us the hon^{r}· to write Us of the 29th Instant N : S : with a Copy of a Letter of M^{r}. De la Touche in which he affirms that the Seizure in Question belongs to Mahomet Ally Cawn. With what Reason he asserts this You may we presume be satisfied by the Attestations We have sent to Bowhore which by this time you have doubtless seen and as by those Papers it will incontestably appear that the Provissions in Question were Ours, We cannot but insist upon Reparation according to the Tenour of our Former Letter.

M^{r}· De la Touche in the Copy of his Letter you have sent Us, Complains of our having fir'd three Cannon Shot upon his Dragoons on the 26 Instant N. S : But he should at the same time have told you, that those Dragoons rode down to our Line and fir'd their Pistols at our Troops, before those Cannon Shot were fir'd.

The Seapoy who rode into our Bounds we have agreable to your desire sent to M^{r}. D'Auteul. What Accident has happen'd to our Seapoys taken at Trevendiporam and dismiss'd by you we know not, but we are inform'd They are not yet arriv'd in our Limits.

We wrote lately to Chunda Saib in relation to a Seizure of a large Quantity of our Grain which was s'd to be made by his People, but which He in his Answer has disavow'd we since learn that this Seizure which was of one hundred and ninety Bullock Loads of Rice &^{ca}· was made by your People at Trividy, as it can be prov'd that this was bought and paid for by Us, and was intended for our Bounds We expect that you will make us proper Satisfaction for this Violence and will issue such Orders as may for the future save us the trouble of these frequent and reiterated Complaints. We are with respect Gentlemen Your most obed^{t}. hum^{e} : Servants STRINGER LAWRENCE—RICH'D STARKE—HENRY POWNEY.

FORT ST. DAVID
20th Augst. 1750.

No. 43.

Mr. Lawrence Governour
& the Gentlemen of Council
at Fort St : David.

Pondichery the 6 Septr. 1750.

Gentlemen

We should have answer'd the Letter you did us the honour to write us the 20th of last Month O : S : sooner, if Messrs. D'auteuil or De la Touche could have furnish'd Us with Mr. Cope Certificate which you speak of but it was sent them at a critical Moment which hindred them from taking Care of it & they know not what is become of it, besides as it was not address'd to them they could not but look upon it as a piece of very little Service however we are inform'd by what Mr Dauteuil has wrote the Commander General that he gave Orders at Bahour to deliver up the six Bullock Loads which you repeat to us although the people that accompanied them declar'd positively that they belong'd to the Army of Mahomed Ally Cawn & that they were returning thither to sell the Grain which they had bought at Cuddalore. the affair was of so little Consequence that it was scarce worth the trouble you have taken to demand them and the less as you cannot be ignorant that every thing which is carrying to an Enemy especially Provisions and Ammunition, is a lawful Prize no matter from what place it may come, The Commanders of your Squadrons have given us so good Examples in the like Cases that there is no room for us to hesitate on what we have to do on such Occasions, Still we are highly pleas'd that M. D'auteuil's Generosity engaged him not to follow so strictly the Examples we have the honour to lay before you.

It is not common to fire Cannon at Troops that are near enough to make use of Pistols.

The Seapoy that got within your Bounds is return'd to M.D'auteuil without his Horse he says they would not return it to him.

Whatever Enquiry we have been able to make on the Subject of the 190 Loads of Rice you mention we cannot discover any thing & we must tell you there is a Sort of Contradiction between the Letter you wrote Chunda Saib, & to us. In the first You say they were stopp'd near Vengatapete and Vengacade and in Ours you say it was at Tervedy we send you a translate of your Letter to Chunda Saib that you may be convinc'd of this Contradiction. It is easy to conclude from all the Demands you have been pleas'd to make that if the Enemy had stay'd longer in Camp, all the Convoys that we might have stopp'd would have belong'd to you or to your People, but as it is too plain that all those that we have stopp'd have not been so, but with our Arms in our Hands and always against strong Escorts of the Enemy and that these Convoys were going to his Camp, every thing that you can alledge to the contrary will be stronger and stronger Proofs of the Succours of all Kinds that you have thought proper to give and lend to our Enemy. We are moreover concern'd that your Merchants put themselves in the way of these Losses. A Greedy Desire of gain always exposes People to great Risques. We are with Respect Gentlemen Your most obedt humble Servants Dupleix—Barthelemi—De St Paul—Friell.

Letter from Major Lawrence to Nabob Chunda Saib

After the usual Compliments.

I am to inform you that several Grain Merchants coming from the Southward being arriv'd in one of the Villages in the Dependencies of Cuddalore call'd Arabevaty, your People came out from Porto Novo & not only took away their Grain and other Effects but even carried them away with them by force as I thought that this was done without your Order I have not taken much trouble about it, because it often happens that Servants make use of their Masters Names and do many things without their participation, but I am this Moment inform'd that about 200 Loads of Grain bought at Chelam on the Company's Account and which was coming to Cuddalore have been stopp'd by your Seapoys about Vengetapete & Vengacaté

I beg you will please to give Orders that this Grain is let go & that no such thing happens again for I must warn you that if it does we shall do what it is our Business to do.

No. 44.

To Mr. Dupleix Governor & the
Gent̃ of the Superior Council of Pondicherry.

Gentlemen

We have receiv'd the Letter you have done us the honour to write Us of Septr the 6th N. S. together with a Translation of an Extract of a Letter from Major Lawrence to Nabob Chunda Saib.

This Letter as you urge contradicts our last in relation to the one hundred and ninety Loads of rice which We reclaim'd as our Property but on Comparing it with Ours, we cannot perceive any Contradiction between them otherwise than that We were first inform'd that the Rice in Question had been taken by Chunda Saib's people, which we afterwards found to have been done by your Troops, but as to the reality of the Seizure or the Place where seiz'd there is no essential Disagreement it being on the Road between Chelam and Cuddalore whence it was carried to within two or three Miles of Tirvady.

However not to waste time in contesting immaterial Circumstances (as we do not conceive that had we been mistaken in the place we should thereby have lost our Right) we must again Affirm that this Rice was not intended for the Army but was seiz'd by your Troops on the Road to Cuddalore and therefore we insist on Reparation for the same the Reality of the Seizure you cannot doubt and as to the property of the Rice and its Destination we are capable of Evincing [*sic*] it by the most incontestable Evidence, We must request you to let us know your Resolutions upon this matter.

With Respect to the Camel and two Bullocks belonging to our Vakeel Hodjer Haddee taken as they were coming from Arcot which Mr Dauteuil has been pleas'd to acquaint Major Lawrence he knows nothing of we learn from one of the People that attended them who with four others were likewise taken but he having been admitted to Bail is come hither that the Said Camel & Oxen and two of his Comrades by Name Shaik Emaum & Abdul Ganey are now at Tirvidy and that the other two whose Names are Kudah Bendah & Hadjee Mahomed were sent prisoners to Pondichery, We have therefore now to desire to be acquainted with your Intentions with regard to detaining or returning them. We are with Respect Gentlemen Your most Obedt. humle. Servants Stringer Lawrence—Richard Starke—Henry Powney.

Fort St David
29 August 1750.

No. 45.

Mr Lawrence Govr.
& the Gentñ of Council
at Fort St David.

Pondichery the 11th Septr 1750.

Gentlemen

We are to answer the Letter you did Us the honour to write Us the 29th of last Month. We have already had the honour to Signify to You that we had no Knowledge of the 190 Loads of Rice; There was no Account of it in our Army & the Answers we have receiv'd on this Subject have always been to assure Us that the Fact is false. We shall say nothing of the property of this Grain, You know that that signifies nothing in a Case of this Nature and that it will be sufficient

for us to prove that they were design'd for the Enemies Army. You are not ignorant of the Laws of War, and if you have a mind to set them in Oblivion its no reason why we should not have them in Remembrance for the rest we have the honr to repeat to you that neither the Commanders of our Troops nor We have any Knowledge of this Affair.

As for the other Fact regarding a Camel & two Oxen we know nothing of it, but by Mr Dauteuil's Answer to Major Lawrence, & as he says in his Letter that he is not acquainted with it we thought the Affair had stopp'd there. We shall write to this Commander and communicate his Answer to you; We shall lay before him the Proofs which you give Us. We are with Respect.

INDEX.

PAGE

Abdul Ganey 45
Abdul Jaleel or Abdel Jaleel or Abdoul Jaleel or Abdull Jaleel 1, 2, 5, 6, 20
Aix la Chapelle 6, 19
America 14
Anaverdy Cawn, Aneverdy Cawn, Annawardee Cawn or Anoverde Cawn 7, 10, 18, 26, 28, 36
Annavaly or Annavelly 2, 3
Arabevaty 44
Arcot 21, 23, 37, 38
Areacopang 16
Areacoty 39
Arnagary 3
Asia 3

Bahour or Bowhore 5, 22, 23, 43, 44
Barompet 8
Barthelemi or Barthelemy 4, 12, 15, 17, 18, 21, 23, 25, 31, 35, 36, 38, 41, 43, 44
Bengal 14, 36
Bertrand, Mr. 8
Bouanaguiry 1
B[ourchier], C 36, 42
Boyelleau, A 23, 32, 33, 43
Brilliant, The 14
Bugrez 8
Bulkley, Philip 11
Bussy, Mons. 30, 33, 34

Carmichael, Dugald 13, 15
Carracal 25
Catigné. *See* Ghatké
Chandra Sekara Braminy or Chender Shaker Rayalu, Ambarcana 1, 3
Chelam 44, 45
Chunda Saib or Synda Saib 4, 7, 9-11, 18, 24-26, 28, 29, 32, 36, 37, 39, 44, 45
Comarapah, Milah 2, 3
Cooke, Thomas 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 18
Cope, Captain J 7, 11, 17, 22, 23, 27, 31-33, 40, 44
Covelon 1
Croke, Edward 6, 8, 9, 12-14, 16, 18
Cuddalore 15, 44, 45

Dalton, J. 11
Danes 38
D'Auteul or Dauteuil 43-46
De Caix, Mr. 33
De Coste, Francisque 11
De La Franchise, Marque 11
De La Touche. *See* La Touche
De Morgan, John 16
De St. Paul 4, 8, 12, 15, 17, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 31, 35, 36, 38, 41, 43, 44
De Sylva, Aluro 8-11
Dumesnil, Mons. 13, 15
Dupleix, Mons. 2, 4, 6-9, 11-18, 21, 23-26, 28, 29, 31, 33-36, 38, 41-45
Duplessis, Mr. 14
Dutch 14, 38

PAGE

East Indies 8, 14
Edgebaston, The 40
England 3, 5, 7, 8, 31, 32
English 2-4, 7, 11, 23, 24, 27, 31-33, 37, 43
English East India Company 7, 8, 10
Europe 3, 4, 17, 19, 25-29, 31, 34, 35, 43

Faquira, the (ship) 14
Fleury, Champ 11
Floyer, Charles 3, 5-9, 12-14, 16-18, 30, 37, 40
Fonsica, Manuel de 24
Fort St. David 2, 3, 5-10, 12, 13, 15-18, 22, 24-26, 29, 30, 35-37, 40-45
Fowke, Mr. 16
France 4, 6, 9, 11, 31, 32
French 2, 3, 7-11, 23, 31-33, 35, 36, 41-43
Friell, James 4, 15, 17, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 31-33, 35, 36, 38, 41, 43, 44

Gardner, George 11
Ghatké or Catiqué 38
Goodere, Robert 35
Gopalaya 3
Gotindivy 33
Grant, Jno 11
Great Britain 19
Guillard 4, 12, 15
Guine, Corporal 16

Hodjee Haddee 45
Hadjee Mahomed 45

India 20, 41
Indies 26
Ingeram 17-19, 35, 36
Innes, John 11

Janardanah Redy 2, 3
Jolly Coeur 11

Key, Ensign 16
Kilpatrick, James 11
Kuda Bendah 45

La Fontain, Mons. 23
La Touche or De la Touche 22, 23, 25, 27, 31, 33, 42-44
Law, Mons. 31, 32
Lawrence, Major Stringer 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 18, 22-26, 29, 30, 35-37, 40-46
Lebou, Mons. 8
Lemaire 4
Le Noir, Mons. 16, 33-36
London 19
Luke, Estata 13

Madevy 3
Madras 13, 14, 42
Mahomed Alli Cawn, Mahomed Ally Cawn, Mahomet Alli Cawn, Mahomet Ally Cawn, Mahomud Ally Cawn, or Momet Ally Cawn ... 20, 22-25, 27, 29-34, 36-38, 43, 44
Malabar Coast 14
Mandagapet, or Mandagul Pattou 2, 3, 23, 38, 39, 41
Matour 8
Mezerpher Jung. *See* Muzerpher Jung
Milapore 42
Mogol, the Great 1, 20

PAGE

Montpelian 11
Moors 2, 8, 18, 19, 32-34
Morattas 5
Muzerpher Jung 10, 37

Nabob 33, 35, 36
Nazir Jing or Nazir Jung or Nauzir Jung 4, 5, 7, 9-12, 17, 20-22, 28, 38, 42
Negreville 11
Nellatoor or Nellatour 2, 3
Nellinoor 7
Neltamby Chetty 2, 3
Nizamalmoluck 20

Paley or Pauley Redy 2,3
Panerouty or Paneroutty 1, 27, 28
Pannon, J 32, 33
Paris 19
Pascal, Edmund 8, 9
Penniar, the (river) 27
Permah Ninar 3
Pero, Edward 10, 11
Persia 20
Petterson, Ian 16
Pigou, Benjamin 11
Pinpoy 11
Ponamalee or Ponemelly or Poonamaly 1, 42
Pondicherry 1-9, 11-14, 16-18, 21-26, 28, 30, 32-45
Porto Novo 1, 40, 44
Portuguese 11, 32
Powney, Henry 30, 35, 37, 41-43, 45
Prussia 6
Puymorin 33

Quichenapoulé, Mouddere 1

Rangapoule, Dubash 1
Ross, Arthur 32, 33
Rougeau 11

Samba Sevah Redy 2, 3
Sevenagah Redy 2, 3
Shaik Emaum 45
Shamey Naick 3
Silesa 6
Smith, John 31, 32
Spaniards 13
Starke, Richard 30, 35, 37, 41-43, 45
St. Omers 11
St. Thome 37
Sumatra, The 14
Synda Saib. *See* Chunda Saib

Talbot, Robert 11
Tanjore or Tanjour 21, 40
Tanjore, King of 4, 6, 20, 27, 38, 39, 41
Tavendaparum. *See* Trivendapuram
Termalayah Pillah 2, 3
Tervady or Terwaddy or Tervedy. *See* Trevady
Tevenapatam 1, 2
Tervendaporam. *See* Trivendaparam ... ...
Tirtanaguiry 1
Trepopilore 20, 27
Trevady or Tirvidy, Tirvady or Trividy or Trivedy 1, 22, 23, 27, 28, 31, 32, 43-45
Tressaly, Mr. 31
Trichenopoly or Trechenopoly or Trechinopoly 4, 5, 20, 38
Trivendaparam or Trivendupuram or Trivendaparum or Trevindaparam or Trevendiporam 1-3, 5, 6, 27, 38, 41, 43

	Page
Vana Medeve or Wanamadevy or Wanava Deve	2, 3
Vencatapetty Redy	2, 3
Vengacade or Vengacate	44
Vengatapete or Vengeta pete	1, 44
Veraperma Nelloor or Vereperma Nelloor or Viraperoumal Nellour	2, 3
Versailles	34
Ville Parou	1
Vizagapatam	35
Waldore or Valdoor	11
Wedy Redy	3
Westcott, Foss	6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 18
West Indies...	13
Wishnadah Redy or Wisnadah Redy	2, 3
Worriorpollam	37
Wynch, Alexander	6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 18
Yanam	17-19, 33-35, 38, 41

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